













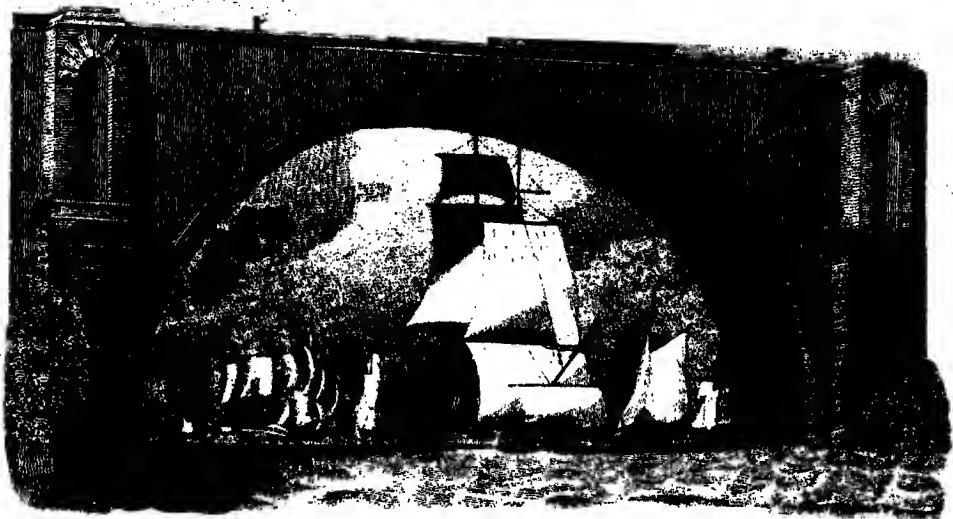
A  
DESCRIPTION  
of  
THE COUNTRY

from thirty to forty Miles round

MANCHESTER.

*The Materials arranged & the Work improved.*

By J. AIKIN, M.D.



*Bartholomew del.*

*Scutcheon sculp.*

Embellished with seventy-three Plates.

LONDON.

*Printed for John Stockdale, Piccadilly.*

June 4. 1795.



A  
DESCRIPTION  
OF THE  
COUNTRY  
FROM  
THIRTY TO FORTY MILES ROUND  
MANCHESTER;

CONTAINING

ITS GEOGRAPHY, NATURAL AND CIVIL; PRINCIPAL PRODUCTIONS; RIVER  
AND CANAL NAVIGATIONS; A PARTICULAR ACCOUNT OF ITS TOWNS  
AND CHIEF VILLAGES; THEIR HISTORY, POPULATION, COM-  
MERCE, AND MANUFACTURES; BUILDINGS,  
GOVERNMENT, &c.

THE MATERIALS ARRANGED, AND THE WORK COMPOSED

BY J. AIKIN, M. D.

EMBELLISHED AND ILLUSTRATED WITH SEVENTY-THREE PLATES.

The echoing hills repeat  
The stroke of ax and hammer; scaffolds rise,  
And growing edifices; heaps of stone  
Beneath the chisel beauteous shapes assume  
Of frieze and column. Some with even line  
New streets are marking in the neighbouring fields,  
And sacred domes of worship.

*Dyer's Fleece.*

London :

PRINTED FOR JOHN STOCKDALE.



## PREFATORY ADVERTISEMENT.

**T**O his laborious undertaking, now completed, the Publisher begs leave to prefix some explanations and acknowledgements, which concern himself and his subscribers, as well as the persons to whom he has been obliged for assistance.

His original idea was merely to give an account of the town of Mottram in Longdendale, and the singular country around it, with which he has much personal acquaintance, and where he enjoys a circle of valuable friends. At the urgent solicitation of some Lancashire gentlemen, he was induced to enlarge his plan, and to make Manchester the centre of a descriptive work, the circumference of which gradually extended itself further and further. With, perhaps, too little reflection, he suffered himself to be engaged in a design of a magnitude and importance that involved him in toil and expence, the idea of which,

had he foreseen their extent, would probably have deterred him from the prosecution of it. And notwithstanding he was so fortunate as to obtain the co-operation of a gentleman of acknowledged abilities for such a work, and with whose exertions he doubts not that the public will be as well satisfied as he himself is, yet the difficulties and disappointments he has met with in the progress of the business, particularly in collecting the necessary materials, have frequently brought him to the verge of repenting his temerity. But the task is now finished; and he flatters himself he shall not be mistaken in the expectations he forms of its being thought worthy of the public support.

As he has received no subscriptions in advance, and as original subscribers have been left perfectly at liberty to withdraw their names if they should think proper, he conceives no blame can attach to him for having raised the price, in proportion as the value of the work itself rose in fair estimation, from the additional decorations and advantages bestowed upon it. He is confident that its cheapness at the present price will be apparent to all who are capable of forming a just comparison between it and other  
works

works of a similar kind, and of estimating the cost of the paper, print, and plates.

In deference to the opinion of some of his best friends, though considerably against his own inclination, he was induced to throw out a proposal for gentlemen residing within the limits of the plan to contribute plates representing views of their own houses, or such other objects as they might fix upon—a circumstance by no means unusual in topographical works. Lest it should be thought that the Publisher lies under obligations which he has not incurred, or that the numerous views he has given were intended to be gratuitously presented to the public, it is incumbent upon him to say, that all the acknowledgements he has to make on this head are for *two plates alone*, a part of the expence of which has been handsomely repaid him, one by a peer, the other by a commoner.

An account of the principal ancient families within the district described, was an original part of the design ; but it was soon found that the compass of the work would not admit such notices, however abbreviated, without excluding circumstances more universally interesting, relative  
to



to the *present state* of so very commercial a tract; whence that part of the plan was necessarily relinquished.

After the work was fully planned, a great number of papers were circulated, containing heads of inquiry, which it was hoped gentlemen in their several towns and parishes would take the pains to answer. But though many expectations of this kind were given, in few instances comparatively were they fulfilled; which the Publisher can only attribute to the more important engagements which the arduous circumstances of the times occasioned. He has, however, his warm thanks to return to many for their valuable communications; and should have to <sup>more</sup>no, by name, had they not chosen to remain concealed.

Among those to whom he may venture publicly to mention his obligations, are

*Joseph Pickford, Esq.* of Royton-hall, who has not only contributed much information from his own knowledge, but with great liberality permitted him to make use of the manuscript collections of the late Thomas Percival, Esq.  
and

and presented him with the plans of Buſton Caſtle, Caſtle Shaw, Caſtle Croft, and Caſtle Steads.

*Thomas Pennant, Eſq.* of Downing, ſo well known by his valuable writings, who beſides allowing the moſt copious tranſcriptions from his printed works, favoured the Publisher with a manuſcript tour acroſs the county of Lancaſter, from which much uſeful matter has been derived, particularly relative to the hundreds of Leyland and Blackburn.

*Mr. Joſeph Booth* of Manchester, for his readineſs in anſwering various queries, and his many kind office in promoting the ſucceſs of the work.

*Dr. Percival* of the ſame place, for the communication of various papers, as well as for many judicious hints and remarks towards the execution of the deſign.

It is proper alſo to acknowledge, that a great part of the hiſtory of the trade and manufactures of Manchester has been taken from the printed account of the ſame by *Mr. James Ogden*, improved by his written communications ; and that this intelligent perſon has been employed

by the Publisher in the collection of materials respecting several of the manufacturing towns in the north-eastern part of Lancashire.

*Thomas Butterworth Bayley, Esq.* of Hope; *John Legh, Esq.* of Bedford-square, London; *John Entwistle, Esq.* of Foxholes; *Nicholas Ashton, Esq.* of Woolton-hall; *Thomas Walker, Esq.* of Manchester; *Mr. Archdeacon Travis*; the *Rev. Mr. Lyon*, of Prestwich; have afforded various assistance and encouragement to the work.

The account of Leeds has been principally drawn up from the communications of the *Rev. Mr. Wood*; and that of Sheffield from those of the *Rev. Mr. Naylor*.

Some other acknowledgements by name are made under the articles to which they belong. Among the favours which must remain anonymous, the Publisher cannot but distinguish those of the writers concerning the tenures and charters of Liverpool, and the improvements of Chat and Trafford Mosses, and the Staffordshire Potteries, as peculiarly entitled to his grateful remembrance.

On the whole, the Publisher is satisfied that he may offer this work, whatever be its defects and inequalities, as containing a fund of new and authentic information, drawn either from personal observation or from the best and most respectable sources, relative to some of the most interesting objects this kingdom affords; and thus, with thanks to his friends and subscribers, he dismisses it with honest hopes of the public approbation and encouragement.

JOHN STOCKDALE.

June 4, 1795.

*Explanation of the Frontispiece and Vignette.*

THE group of females in the frontispiece represents *Agriculture, Industry, Plenty and Commerce*, allegorical personages peculiarly connected with the district which forms the subject of the work. The Ship in the back-ground alludes to the port of Liverpool. The Cupids sporting above, express the joy and satisfaction resulting from such an association.

The Vignette in the title page, exhibiting an arch thrown across an arm of the sea, under which a fleet of merchant ships is passing in full sail, while a vessel nearly as large sails over the aqueduct above, is a kind of visionary anticipation of the future wonders of canal-navigation, probably not a greater advance from its present state, than the aqueduct at Barton-bridge was, from that in which it was found by Brindley.

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\* The value and utility of this map, as well for the direction of the reader, as for gentlemen travelling that country, is self-evident.

† The approbation which the plan of Manchester and Salford by Mr. Laurent has met with, induced the publisher to purchase the plates, for the benefit of those of his subscribers who are not already in possession of that performance. It was very extraordinary that a foreigner, without knowledge of the language, or previous acquaintance with the country, should be able, *by his eye alone*, without the assistance of any instrument (as was verified by the public testimony of the surveyors and architects of Manchester) during the most rigorous season of the year, to survey, in less than two months, two towns of some miles in circumference, with all their intricate communication.

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## I N T R O D U C T I O N.

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THE circle of country which it is the object of the present work to describe, forms a considerable part of the north-western quarter of England. Just approaching the Irish sea to the west, it stretches on the east across the ridge of hills which perpendicularly divides the north of England into two portions, and projects some way into the plain beyond; and extending northwards to the edge of those hilly and barren parts which compose a great share of the northern extremity of the kingdom, it encroaches southwards on the limits of the midland counties.

On taking our central station at Manchester, a grand scenery of strongly contrasted ranges of land presents itself. Westward, a long level plain, broken by a few



scattered eminences, partitioned, for the most part, into green and woody inclosures, yet sprinkled with large patches of bare and brown morafs, affords to the eye an interminable prospect, expanding from side to side, and embracing almost the whole county of Chester, and the broadest and best cultivated portion of that of Lancaster. Northward, the view is soon bounded by a mountainous ridge of moderate elevation, beyond which lies another tract of vale, which is at length lost amidst hills and moors. Southward, a rich and varied country extends for many miles, bounded in the distant horizon by lofty hills in Staffordshire and Cheshire. The country to the east is composed of a vast tract of that chain of mountains which, descending from Scotland, runs like a back-bone through all the north of England, till it terminates in the Peak of Derbyshire and the moorlands of Staffordshire, both within the limits of our circle. This rugged region, stretching many miles from east to west, includes a confused assemblage of high barren moors, lofty eminences, and interjacent vales, each watered and fertilized by its winding stream. Its eastern edge declines suddenly in the beautiful and highly-cultured plain of Yorkshire and Derbyshire.

Such is the general face and situation of the extensive tract over which we are about to travel ;—considerably interesting merely as a portion of the surface of our island, and as possessing a great variety of natural and artificial products of the earth. But it is principally as a manufacturing district that it merits the distinction of being made the subject of a particular survey ; and in this respect it may confidently challenge any other tract of equal extent within the limits of Great Britain (the vicinity of the metropolis, perhaps, excepted) to exhibit the same number of objects of national importance.

The centre we have chosen is that of the *cotton manufacture* ; a branch of commerce, the rapid and prodigious increase of which is, perhaps, absolutely unparalleled in the annals of trading nations. Manchester is, as it were, the heart of this vast system, the circulating branches of which spread all around it, though to different distances. To the north-western and western points it is most widely diffused, having in those parts established various headquarters, which are each the centres to their lesser circles. Bolton, Blackburn, Wigan, and several other Lancashire towns, are stations of this kind ; and the whole inter-

vening country takes its character from its relation to them. Stockport to the south, and Ashton to the east, of Manchester, are similar appendages to this trade ; and its influence is spread, more or less, over the greatest part of Lancashire, and the north-eastern portion of Cheshire. Under the general head of the cotton manufacture may be comprized a variety of fabrics not strictly belonging to it, but accompanying it, and in like manner centering in Manchester and its vicinity.

To the north-east and east the cotton trade is soon entrenched upon by the *woollen manufacture*, an object, likewise, of vast importance, which extends through great part of the West Riding of Yorkshire, and fills its most bleak and sterile tracts with population and opulence. This has not any one common centre, but the towns of Leeds, Halifax, Bradford, Wakefield, Huddersfield, Saddleworth, and Rochdale, are each centres of particular branches and varieties of the woollen manufacture. This trade, though of older standing and slower advance than the cotton trade, and likewise rivalled in other parts of the kingdom, has, nevertheless, experienced a very rapid increase in late years. It would seem as if a hilly coun-

try was peculiarly adapted to it, since it almost ceases where Yorkshire descends into the plain.

Southward of the limits of the clothing trade, our circle comprehends the town of Sheffield, so famous for its *cutlery* and *hardware*. Passing into Derbyshire it includes all the *mining* and *mineral* country of the Peak, and extends to the commercial town of Chesterfield. Staffordshire, besides other branches of manufacture, affords a most curious and valuable one, the *pottery*, which may be said, as a national object, to be the creation of a few years past, produced by a fortunate combination of chymical skill with taste in the fine arts. This county also participates with Cheshire in the *spinning and winding of silk*, which is carried on to a moderate extent in several places. Cheshire possesses another article of great importance to the national revenues,—the *salt*, which is obtained in inexhaustible abundance from its rock-pits and springs.

Though the cotton-trade peculiarly characterises Lancashire as a commercial county, yet it has other considerable branches of manufacture; as that of *sail-cloth* and  
*coarse*

*coarse linens, of nails, of watch tools and movements, of cast-plate and common glass.* Its great port of Liverpool, the second for extent of business in the kingdom, and that which has received the most rapid increase, is also within our limits ; as is, likewise, the ancient port of Chester.

This general survey of our ground, will, it is presumed, amply justify the choice of Manchester as a grand centre from whence to take a tour, most peculiarly interesting to those who wish for information respecting the commerce and manufactures of this island. It now remains to give some account of the method proposed to be followed in arranging the materials of the ensuing work.

We begin with breaking this large space into its geographical divisions. As the greater part of *Lancashire*, and a still larger proportion of *Cheeshire*, are comprehended within our bounds, it has been thought proper to give an entire general description of these two counties. Their limits, divisions, face of country, soil, climate, course of rivers, agriculture, and productions, are treated of in a summary way, and every circumstance of importance by which they are characterised is noted. Though a much smaller

smaller portion of *Derbyshire* belongs to our plan, yet, as the whole county is not very extensive, and as the two hundreds with which we are concerned are by much the most remarkable for their appearance and products, we have also extended our general description through the whole of it. *Yorkshire* being geographically divided into Three Ridings, of which a part of the West alone comes within our circle, we have given a general account of that Riding alone. Of *Staffordshire* the northern extremity only is described in this general manner. These several territorial descriptions are terminated by a particular account of the whole system of canal and river navigation which extends through and mutually connects these districts, and which cannot be properly understood without tracing the several trunks and communicating branches from county to county, disregarding all artificial boundaries.

The main body of the work then succeeds, consisting of the description of *particular places*. Beginning with our centre, we proceed through all the principal towns and villages in the same order in which the counties have been treated of. Details are given, as accurate as our  
mate-

materials could supply, (in the collection of which neither pains nor expense have been spared) of population, government, institutions public and private, trade, manufactures, and all that is important in the *present state* of a place, not, however, entirely disregarding narrations of past times, when they appeared interesting. The very different degree in which our inquiries have produced the desired information at different places, has prevented such a proportional adjustment of space to the accounts given of them, as their respective importance would seem always to require; but we trust it will be found, that few matters of real utility have been passed over without some adequate degree of notice. It is hoped that the number of maps and plans for illustration, which, besides the numerous views for ornament, have been allotted to this work, will materially aid the information it is intended to convey.





# LANCASHIRE.



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\* The value and utility of this map, as well for the direction of the reader, as for gentlemen travelling that country, is self-evident.

† The approbation which the plan of Manchester and Salford by Mr. Laurent has met with, induced the publisher to purchase the plates, for the benefit of those of his subscribers who are not already in possession of that performance. It was very extraordinary that a foreigner, without knowledge of the language, or previous acquaintance with the country, should be able, *by his eye alone*, without the assistance of any instrument (as was verified by the public testimony of the surveyors and architects of Manchester) during the most rigorous season of the year, to survey, in less than two months, two towns of some miles in circumference, with all their intricate communication.

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# DESCRIPTION

OF THE

## COUNTRY ROUND MANCHESTER.

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### I. *LANCASHIRE in general.*

**L**ANCASHIRE is bounded on its whole southern side by Cheshire, the river Mersey marking the division from the sea as far as Stockport, and the Tame, for the remainder. Its whole eastern side joins to Yorkshire, by a very irregular boundary line, not naturally marked, but for the most part following a mountainous chain. To the north it is bounded by Westmoreland; and to the west, by the Irish sea, and by a small part of Cumberland, which touches its north-western extremity.

It is an extensive tract of country, of very unequal dimensions in its different parts. The southern part, as far the middle, and somewhat beyond, forms a quadrangular portion, keeping a pretty uniform breadth from the confines of Yorkshire to the sea. The county then narrows suddenly, by the encroachment of Yorkshire, so that the remaining portion, as far as the limits of Westmoreland, has an inconsiderable breadth. A third portion is quite detached from the rest by an arm of the sea, and is a roundish tract, lying to the north-west of the whole

C main

main part of the county. A line drawn from the northern extremity of this detached part, to the Mersey, would measure full 70 miles; but the length of the county, exclusive of this part, is about 54. The medium breadth of its southern portion is 40 miles. Mr. Yates, the author of the Lancashire map by survey, gives the county the following dimensions: greatest length 74 miles, breadth  $44\frac{1}{2}$ , circumference (crossing the Ribble at its mouth) 342 miles; surface 1765 square miles, or 1,129,600 statute acres.

*Face of the country.*—The southern part of Lancashire is a tract of nearly level land extending from the high country of Yorkshire to the sea. Through the eastern part of this tract various rivers and streams take their winding course, finally terminating in the Mersey. A number of mosses, or peat-bogs, are found in various parts, some of great extent. These become more numerous on approaching the sea-coast, which throughout this county is universally low and flat. On advancing a little northerly, a ridge of hills, connected with the great Yorkshire chain, makes a deep inroad, extending from east to west as far as the centre of the county, and appearing in detached eminences pretty far to the west. Behind this first ridge is an interval of level country; and then commences another hilly tract, running along the borders of Yorkshire, and pushing more or less into Lancashire, but every where leaving a space of flat land between it and the sea. This space is, however, more and more narrowed on proceeding northwards, till at the Westmoreland border it is reduced to a very small breadth. On the whole, if a line were drawn from Lancaster to Preston, and thence through Manchester, to Ashton-under-line, it would leave the hilly country to the east, and the level to the west.

As to the detached part or district of Furness, it is throughout an irregular and romantic mixture of hills, narrow vales, lakes, and streams, the mountains being most wild and lofty on the Cumberland border. But its southern extremity, which projects into the sea, contains a considerable tract of level land, fronted by the singular bow-like isle of Walney, which is of the same nature.

### RIVERS.

The *Mersey* will be traced among the rivers of Cheshire.

The *Irwell*.—This may be considered as the principal river of the south-eastern part of the county, as it unites all the rest, and is the only one navigable. The Irwell may be traced up to the moors near the Yorkshire border about the parallel of Haslingden. From an union of streams in that quarter, a rivulet is formed, which runs through the manor of Tottington to Bury, a little below which, receiving the Roch, it turns westward; but soon, meeting with a stream coming from Bolton, it is bent in an acute angle south-eastwards, and takes its course to Manchester. Here, after receiving the Irk and the Medlock, its direction is again changed westerly, and proceeding through Barton, where it is crossed by the Duke of Bridgewater's canal, it mixes at length with the Mersey below Flixton. It is made navigable from Manchester to its junction with the Mersey, and thence to the sea.

The *Roch*, rising out of the bordering ridge of hills called Blackstone-edge, and uniting several streams from both sides as it flows, passes Rochdale, and joins the Irwell near Radcliff.

The streams which compose the *Irk* come principally from Royton and Oldham. It takes a short course to empty itself into the Irwell at Manchester.

The *Medlock* coming out of Yorkshire has also a branch from Oldham, and terminates in the same manner as the former.

The *Douglas*, taking its rise from the neighbourhood of Rivington Pike, runs first southwards to Wigan, where, receiving other streams from the south, it is forced to a north-westerly direction; and after being augmented by the Eller-brook from Ormskirk, and the united Yarrow and Lostock rivulets from Chorley and Cuerden, it empties itself into the broad estuary of the Ribble at Much-hool. It is made navigable from Wigan.

The *Darwent*, springing from among the hills about Over Darwen and Rosendale, runs a little to the south of Blackburn, receiving a stream from that town, and then winds away to the west, and mixes with the Ribble at Walton-le-dale.

The *Ribble*, the principal river of the middle of Lancashire, and which makes the separation between its broader and narrower portion, rises in the West Riding of Yorkshire, and flowing southwards between the noted mountains Ingleborough and Penignt, passes Settle and Bolton, and reaches the confines of Lancashire above Clitheroe, becoming for a short space the boundary line. Then, receiving from the north-west the Hodder, (a Yorkshire stream, which also serves some way for a boundary) and the Calder, from the east, it holds on a westerly course, winding through a rich vale, by Ribchester, to Walton near Preston, where

where it is joined by the Darwent. Immediately below Penwortham it widens into a shallow and broad estuary, which makes a great gap in the sea-coast line of the county, but is unfit for the navigation of vessels of any burthen. The Ribble, at some periods a very considerable stream, in time of floods brings down vast quantities of water, and with great impetuosity.

The *Calder* rises from the moors on the borders near Colne, and running westerly, joins the Ribble near Whalley.

The *Wyer* unites the streams of the country between the Ribble and Lune. It takes its rise from the wild country of Wycrfdale, on the Yorkshire border, and running south-west to Garstang, receives many streams from the east and south, which turn it due west; when passing near Poulton, it bends northerly, expanding into a sort of basin called Wyer-water, and again contracting, enters the sea by a narrow channel, which has depth of water enough to afford entrance and safe harbour to ships of burthen.

The *Loyne* or *Lune*, springing from the fells of Westmoreland, holds a direct southern course to Kirkby-Lonsdale, below which town it arrives at the Lancashire border, and running south-westerly, receives the Greta and the Wenning out of Yorkshire, and flowing through a delightfully romantic dale, reaches Lancaster. Hence it becomes navigable for ships, though vessels of considerable burthen cannot without difficulty come nearer the town than two miles. It expands below Lancaster into a basin, and enters the sea at Sunderland Point.

The district of Furness is too small to afford rivers of any consequence. The *Winster*, which makes its separation from Westmoreland on the east, empties into the mouth of the Ken. The waters of the lake of Winder-meer are discharged by the *Leven*, which, meeting with those from Coniston-meer, discharged by the *Grake*, forms with it Leven-water, a small estuary fordable at low water. The *Duddon*, which separates Furness from Cumberland, widens, below Broughton, into a similar estuary, called Duddon-water.

### L A K E S.

*Winander-meer*, or *Winder-meer*, in Furness, is the most extensive piece of water in England, being about ten miles in length, though no where one in breadth; its direction running north and south. Its general depth in the middle is 90 feet, but opposite to Ecclefrigg crag it is 222 feet, the bottom smooth horizontal slate rocks. Before storms it has a current in the opposite direction from whence the wind comes. The division of the counties of Westmoreland and Lancaster passes through the northern part of this lake, but the southern is all in Lancashire. Its islands or holms, however, all belong to Westmoreland. Winder-meer is a capital object to those who make the tour of the northern lakes, and affords many striking points of prospect.

*Coniston-water* is about half the size of the former. It is situated in Furness, parallel to Winder-meer, and a few miles distant from it. Between the two lies another small meer, called *Eastbwaite-water*.

### S O I L.

The soil of the county is very various, though the changes are not so rapid as in some other parts. The greatest portion of the district be-



tween the Ribble and Mersey has at the surface a sandy loam, well fitted for the production of most cultivated vegetables. The substratum is generally red rock or clay marl. There is also a black sandy loam, somewhat different from the above, the substratum of which is white sand, under which is clay, and then marl. There are likewise tracts of white sand lands, and a few pebbly gravel lands. Some stiff land is met with, but no obdurate clay. The vales are generally fertile; but the soil becomes more barren on approaching the hills, which are mostly composed of moor-land in a state of nature, overrun with heath and wild plants.

*Mosses.*—Lancashire abounds in those bogs or morasses which bear the provincial name of *mosses*. Some of these are large tracts of land, and by their brown and sterile appearance greatly deform the face of the country. They consist of a spongy soil, composed evidently of the roots of decayed vegetables intermixed with a rotten mould of the same origin. This matter is of a light colour and texture near the surface, but becomes darker and heavier on descending, and is converted into the substance called turf or peat, which is used as a fuel, and sometimes contains so much bituminous matter as to flame at a candle. This kind of soil is several feet in depth, and contains in many parts large trees buried, and preserved from putrefaction by exclusion of the air. They are of different colours and very inflammable, but often so found as to be capable of being worked into furniture. On penetrating quite through the moss-earth, sand or clay, the common soil of the country, is met with. Hence there can be little reason to doubt that these tracts were once forest-land, which being neglected, and suffered to be inundated, at length became bogs. The trees that grew on them were overthrown, and then covered by the rank vegetation. As plants died, others succeeded,

ceeded, and thus an artificial soil was produced, which continually increased. Some of these mosses now rise several feet above the level of the surrounding country. They are covered with a variety of plants proper to them; as all the tribes of heath, bilberry, cranberry, crowberry, *Andromeda polifolia*, Lancashire aspidel, fun-dew, cotton-grass, and the fragrant *Myrica Gale*, or bog-myrtle. In dry weather, the upper crust of turf will bear the foot, but for a large space round the ground shakes with the tread, and horses or cattle cannot venture upon it. In wet seasons the mosses are impassable, and so swollen in their substance as sometimes to conceal objects from the opposite sides which are visible in dry seasons. Some of them are partially drained by deep ditches, which discharge a water deeply tinged with brown, and unfit for use. Were it not for such drains, they would probably sometimes swell to bursting, as Solway-moss in Cumberland some years ago did, and as Chat-moss, one of the largest in Lancashire, is recorded to have done in the age preceding Camden, when it disgorged into the Mersey, and by its black contents killed the fish for a large space. Good land is continually gained from the edges of the mosses, after the peat is cut away for fuel. By marling, the remaining boggy earth is made solid, and the land proves extremely fertile. It is scarcely to be doubted that the whole of them may in time be reclaimed by means of effectual draining; though at present the great depth of the loose bog in their central parts offers a formidable obstacle.

The quantity of waste lands in Lancashire is great. Mr. Yates calculated that the moss-lands amount to 26,500 acres, the moors, marshes, and commons, to 482,000; making together 508,500 acres. Much of this is incapable of tillage, but might be improved by draining, planting, and various other modes.

## MANURES.

The chief manure of the county is marl, which is found in most parts of it, and of various qualities, adapted to different soils. To the stiff clay lands, the blue or reddish slate marl, full of calcareous earth, is most effectual; but to the light sand lands, the strong clayey marl is best suited. By its means, some of the barren sandy heaths have been rendered productive, but at a considerable expence, since it is necessary to lay on so much as to give a new staple to the soil. Near the sea, sea-slutch is used for a manure, and in some places a sand full of sea-shells is found, which answers instead of marl. Lime is occasionally used; and the neighbourhood of towns is supplied with various articles of manure from the refuse of manufactures.

## CLIMATE.

It is commonly observed that the whole western side of the kingdom is more subject to rain than the eastern, the evident cause of which is, that it first receives the clouds from the Atlantic ocean, by which this island is principally watered. The situation of Lancashire in a peculiar manner exposes it to the operation of this general cause, as the hills which form its line of separation from Yorkshire arrest the clouds in their progress, and cause them to deposite their contents: hence, the quantity of rain that falls is augmented in proportion to the nearness of the hills. Thus at Townley it was found by observation, that 42 inches of rain fell annually at a medium, whereas at Manchester only 33 fell. This wetness of the climate is unfortunate to the growth of corn and the ripening of fruit, but it is serviceable to pasturage, and produces an almost perpetual verdure in the fields. The frosts, too, are less severe and lasting than on the eastern side of the hills, and con-

tle in common years can be kept abroad all the winter. On the whole, the climate, though unpleasant, is not unfalubrious, or unfavourable to the wants of man, especially since the culture of potatoes has secured a quantity of food not much liable to injury from the weather. The healthiness of the county is shewn in the appearance of the inhabitants, who are, in general, a tall, florid, and comely race. Scrofulous affections, indeed, are common among those who inhabit the wettest parts, and live poorly; and consumptions arising from this cause are very frequent.

### PRODUCTIONS.

The grain principally cultivated is oats, which, when ground to meal, is the principal food of the labouring class, especially in the northern and eastern parts of the county. A good deal of barley, and some wheat, is grown in Low Furness, the Fylde, and in the south-western parts of the county; but, on the whole, it is supposed that Lancashire does not raise more than one quarter of the grain it consumes. The lands near the great towns are chiefly employed in pasturage; and at a greater distance, a large portion of the ground is in pasturage and meadow. A great number of cows are kept near the towns for the purpose of supplying them with milk and butter. Considerable quantities of cheese are also made in some parts, of which the most in repute is that from the neighbourhood of Leigh and Newborough, which is mild and rich, and particularly valued for toasting. Buttermilk is a great article of food among the poor in this county, either mixed with oatmeal or potatoes, or drank at meals with water.

That inestimable root, the potatoe, was long an article of common diet in Lancashire and Cheshire, before it was known otherwise than

as a garden vegetable in most other parts of the kingdom ; and these counties are still peculiarly celebrated for the finest and most productive kinds. The best in this county are supposed to grow in the light sandy soil of some of the sea-coast parishes, especially the Meales near Ormskirk. It is imagined that they were originally introduced into these parts from Ireland, where Sir Walter Raleigh, who brought them from America, had cultivated them ; but at present large quantities are sent from the Lancashire ports to Dublin.

With respect to woods, it is with difficulty that trees of any kind can be reared near the sea on account of the violence of the western winds. In Furness many acres of coppice wood are cut down in rotation every 15 years, and burned into charcoal for the use of the smelting furnaces. Towards the centre of the county are some thriving woods with good timber ; a considerable quantity is also grown in hedge rows ; but on the whole, the growth of timber trees is on the decline, except in plantations about gentlemen's seats. Of late years, the alder has become an article of consequence, both on account of the peculiar fitness of its wood for making smooth poles for hanging cotton yarn to dry, as for its bark which is used for dying, and sells at nearly 1d. per pound. Alders are planted on the loose grounds on the side of the Duke of Bridgewater's canal by way of securing the banks, and have proved in other respects a valuable plantation. Osiers are found to be a very valuable production on account of the demand for them in making hampers, &c.

Lancashire is possessed of a peculiar breed of horned cattle, which forms a variety of the Lincolnshire, being of smaller size, with wide spreading horns and straight backs. Their hair is finely curled, and

the elegance and regularity of their shape render this the most beautiful race of cattle this kingdom produces. The tract adjacent to Garstang is the principal seat of this breed.

But few sheep are kept in the southern part of the county, except those purchased by butchers, or fed by gentlemen on their grounds. In the northern parts, sheep are bred and kept upon the moors and mountains. There is also a breed called the Warton or Silver-dale sheep, which is much esteemed for the flavour of its flesh, fineness of wool, and tendency to fatten.

A greater number of horses has been bred of late years than formerly, owing to the increased demand; but much attention has not been paid to the breed. Strong horses are most in use for ordinary purposes. The stock of swine is generally purchased from herds brought out of the neighbouring counties, or from Wales and Ireland.

That beautiful fish, the Charr, (*Umbla*) which is a native of the lakes of the northern and mountainous parts of Europe, is found also in Winder-meer and Conistoun-water. Mr. Pennant says, that the largest and most beautiful specimens of this fish which he ever saw were taken in Winder-meer, and sent him under the names of case charr, gelt charr, and red charr. On the closest examination he could not discover any specific differences between these, and therefore considers them as a variety of the same species. There is, however, a remarkable difference in their time of spawning. The case charr spawns about Michaelmas, and chiefly in the river Brathy, which, uniting with another called the Rowthay, falls into the northern end of the lake. The Brathy has a black rocky bottom; that of the Rowthay is bright sand, and

and the charr are never observed to enter it. Some of them, however, spawn in the lake, but only in its stony parts. They are supposed to be in perfection about May, and continue so all the summer, yet are rarely caught after April. The red charr spawns from the beginning of January to the end of March. They are never known to ascend the rivers, but lie in those parts of the lake where the bottom is smooth and sandy, and the water warmest. They are taken in the greatest plenty from the end of September to the end of November, and are much more esteemed for eating than the former. The Coniston charr are reckoned very fine, and are fished later than those of Winder-meer, and continue longer in the spring.

Salmon are found in all the Lancashire rivers. Smelts, called here sparlings, come in great shoals up the Mersey to spawn in the spring, but not as long as there is any snow water in the river. They are remarkably large and fine there. The graining is a fish supposed peculiar to the Mersey; it much resembles a dace, but is more slender, with a straighter back.

## MINERALS.

The most valuable mineral production of Lancashire is coal, the great plenty of which has been a considerable encouragement to the settlement of manufactures in the county. They abound most in the two southern hundreds of West Derby and Salford, and the adjacent eastern one of Blackburn. The tracts containing them run from the north-east to the south-west. None are met with north of the Ribble; and all the sea-coast parts northwards are supplied by means of the river Douglas, which carries the coals from the neighbourhood of Wigan to the mouth of the Ribble. The kinds of coal are as various, as the quantity

is abundant. The greater part are quick-burning, not caking or turning to cinders, but leaving a light white ash; there are, however, coals of a different quality, excellent for the smith's use. One of the most noted species of coal is that termed cannel, or kennel, which looks almost like pure bitumen, is highly inflammable, splits with a fine polished surface not soiling the fingers, and is occasionally wrought into figures and toys. It burns rapidly when stirred, yielding a bright flame, and crackling; but if left to itself, it folds together, and keeps in a smothering fire for a long time. The Lancashire coals are chiefly used in the county and the adjacent parts of Cheshire; but some are exported from Liverpool, and this quantity is increased since the canal from that port to Wigan has afforded a more copious supply.

There are quarries of stone of different kinds in various parts of the county. Near Lancaster is an extensive quarry of free-stone which admits of a fine polish. The town is built of it. Flags and grey slates are dug at Holland near Wigan. The best scythe stones are got at Rainsford, and also fine pipe clay. Lime-stone is found in abundance in the northern and north-eastern districts; but no calcareous earth, except in marl, is met with towards the southern parts, a small quantity of lime-stone pebbles upon the banks of the Mersey excepted. There are few other mineral productions, except in the detached district of Furness. This is properly a mineral tract. Its lower parts yield quantities of iron stone, which is partly smelted upon the spot, partly exported. In the hilly parts are mines of copper and lead; and there are quarries of fine blue slate, which is a considerable article of exportation. At Anglezark, a little to the east of Chorley, is a lead mine at present worked, though to a small extent. It is the only mine in England known to yield that curious mineral the Aerated Barytes, of which



which a particular account is given in a paper by Mr. James Watt, jun. printed in the 3d vol. of the *Manchester Transactions*.

### PROPERTY.

Since the introduction of manufactures, property has become more minutely divided. But there remain proprietors who hold very extensive possessions ; and the remark of Camden, of the number of ancient families which bear the names of the places where they reside, is still applicable to this county. The yeomanry, formerly numerous and respectable, have greatly diminished of late, many of them having entered into trade : but in their stead, a number of small proprietors have been introduced, whose chief subsistence depends upon manufactures, but who have purchased land round their houses, which they cultivate by way of convenience and variety.

In most townships there is one farm, still distinguished by the name of the Old Hall, or manor-house (the former residence of the great proprietor of the district), which is of larger extent than any of the neighbouring farms ; few of them, however, exceed 600 statute acres ; and many do not reach 200. The more general size of farms is from 50 down to 20 acres, or even as much only as will keep a horse or cow.

But few open or common fields are now remaining, the inconveniences attending them having caused great exertions to effect a division of property, so that each individual might have his grounds contiguous, and cultivate them after his own method. The enclosures are in general very small, so as to occasion much loss of ground in hedges and fences, and in some measure to obstruct the free action of the sun and air.

air. In the lands of large proprietors, however, this fault is amending. There can be no doubt that in this county, inclosure has increased population.

### CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

The people of Lancashire were comprehended under the Roman denomination of *Brigantes*, which included the inhabitants of all the northern part of England. In like manner they comprized part of the Saxon kingdom of *Northumberland*. The district was named by the Saxons *Lonkasterfscyre*. It had its particular lords under the Norman government, and gave the title of earl to Edmund, younger son of Henry III.; a successor of whom was created duke by Edward III. On his death without issue male, the same king created John of Gaunt, his fourth son, (who had married the heiress of the last possessor) duke of Lancaster, and advanced the county to the dignity of a *palatinate* in his favour. The patent for this purpose grants to the duke his court of chancery to be held within the county, his justices for holding the pleas of the crown and all other pleas relating to common law, and finally, “all other liberties and royalties relating to a *county palatine*, as freely and fully as the earl of Chester is known to enjoy them within the county of Chester.” John of Gaunt was succeeded in his dukedom by his son Henry of Bolingbroke, who afterwards ascended the throne under the title of Henry IV. This king, by authority of parliament, secured to his heirs the possession of this inheritance, with all its rights and liberties, in the same manner as he received it before he came to the crown. Henry V. annexed to this duchy the great estates which fell to him in right of his mother, daughter and co-heiress of Humphrey Bohun, earl of Hereford. Since that time, the *duchy of Lancaster*, comprehending, besides the county of Lancaster, great estates

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in various parts of the kingdom, has subsisted, as a separate possession belonging to the kings of England, having its own chancellor, attorney, receivers, and other officers. The law offices for the county palatine are held at Preston.

With respect to common judicial administration, Lancashire is a part of the northern circuit, and the assizes for the county are held twice a year at the county-town, Lancaster.

Lancashire sends 14 members to parliament, provides 800 men to the national militia, and pays only five parts out of the 513 of the land-tax of England.

The county is divided into six hundreds, viz. those of Salford, West Derby, Leyland, Blackburne, Amounderness, and Lonsdale. They are subdivided into the following townships :

*SALFORD Hundred.\**

Manchester,	Barton,	Crompton,
Salford,	Pendleton,	Ashton,
Stretford,	Pendlebury,	Hundersfield,
Withington,	Urmston,	Castleton,
Heaton Norris,	Plixton,	Spotland,
Chorlton Row,	Prestwich,	Butterworth,
Reddish,	Pilkingon,	Bolton with hamlets,
Cheetham,	Oldham,	Turton with Long-
Worsley,	Royton,	worth,
Clifton,	Chadderton,	Edgworth with hamlets,

\* Pays 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  of the county rates ; raises 293 militia men.

Harwood with hamlets,	Hulton parva,	Heaton, Horwich, and
Blackrod with Aspull,	—— middle,	Halliwell,
Rivington, Lostock, and	West Haughton,	Radcliffe,
Anglezark,	Farnworth, Rumfworth,	Bury with hamlets,
Hulton magna,	and Kerfley,	Tottington.

WEST DERBY *Hundred*.\*

Wigan,	Parr,	Woolston and Poolton,
Ince and Pemberton,	Sutton,	Rixton and Glasbrook,
Holland and Dalton,	Widnes and Appleton,	Leigh and Pennington,
Hindley and Abram,	Bold,	Atherton,
Billinge, Orrell, and	Cuerdley and Crouton,	West Leigh,
Winstanley,	Ditton and Penketh,	Bedford,
Haigh,	Sankey,	Astley,
Winwick and Hulme,	Walton and Fazakerley,	Tildestley with Shacker-
Newton,	Formby,	ley,
Lowton and Kenyon,	Derby,	Childwall,
Haydock and Gol-	Liverpool,	Hale and Halewood,
bourne,	Kirkdale,	Great Woolton,
Ashton in Mackerfield,	Bootle and Linacre,	Little Woolton,
Culcheth,	Everton,	Wavertree,
Southworth, Croft, Mid-	Ormskirk,	Speak,
dleton, and Arbury,	Burscough,	Garston,
Prescott,	Latham,	Allerton,
Whiston,	Scarifbrick,	Huyton and Robcy,
Rainhill,	Bickersteth and Skelmerf-	Knowsley,
Eccleston,	dale,	Tarbock,
Rainford,	Warrington,	Hallfall,
Windle,	Burtonwood,	Melling,

\* Pays  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the county rates ; raises 202 militia men.

Down Holland,	Ince, Blundell, and Lit-	rett, and Ford,
Lydiate,	tle Crosby,	Aughton,
Maghull,	Thornton and Great Gros-	North Meales, Crosby,
Scphton, Netherton, and	by,	and Birkdale,
Lunt,	Litherland, Ayntree, Or-	Altcar.

LEYLAND *Hundred*.\*

Leyland,	Hesketh, and Becon-	Duxbury and Adling-
Euxton,	fall,	ton,
Hoghton, Withnall,	Bretherton and Ulves-	Penwortham and Hut-
Wheelton, and Hea-	walton,	ton,
pey,	Standish with Langtree,	Longton,
Clayton, Cuerden, and	Copull and Worthington,	Farrington and Howick,
Whittle in the Woods,	Heath Charnock, and	Eccleston and Heskin,
Crofton and Rufford,	Anderton,	Wrightington and Par-
Tarleton, Much Hoole,	Charnock Richard,	bold,
and Little Hoole,	Skevington, and Walfh	Bindle,
Mawdesley, Brispham,	Whittle,	Chorley.

BLACKBURNE *Hundred*.†

Blackburne,	Cliviger,	Hapton,
Mearley,	Hastlingden,	Burnley,
Altham,	Osbaldeston,	Padiham,
Downham,	Balderstone,	Samlesbury,
Clitheroe,	Cuerdale,	Livesey with Tockholes,
Chatburne,	Simonstone,	Oswaldtwistle,
Worston,	Little Harwood,	Aughton, Bailey, and
Church,	Great & Little Pendleton,	Chaidgley,

\* Pays  $\frac{7}{20}$  of the county rates; raises 44 militia men.† Pays  $\frac{1}{10}$  of the county rates; raises 123 militia men.

Saillbury,	Marfden,	Witton,
Huntcoat,	Over Darwen,	Twiston,
Chipping,	Whilpshire with Dink-	Whalley,
Brerecliff with Extwisle,	ley,	Walton in le dale,
Great Harwood,	Clayton in le dale,	Bolland Forest,
Billington,	Wifwall,	Pendle Forest,
Clayton in le moors,	Colne,	Ightenhill Park,
Nether Darwen,	Worsthorne,	Heyhouses,
Thornley with Wheat-	Dutton,	Trawden,
ley,	Mitton, Henthorne and	Rossendale,
Rishton,	Colecotes,	Old Accrington,
Foulrigg,	Read,	New Accrington.
Pleasington,	Ribchester with Dil-	
Mellor with Ecclehill,	worth,	

AMOUNDERNESS *Hundred*.\*

Preston,	Whittingham,	Wecton with Preeft,
Barton,	Garstang,	Medlarch with We-
Broughton,	Catterall,	sham,
Lea,	Billsborough,	Newsham,
Ashton,	Claughton,	Trayles,
Fishwick,	Kirkham,	Great and Little Single-
Grimfargh with Brock	Westby with Plumpton,	ton,
holes,	Clifton,	Wood Plumpton,
Ribbleson,	Newton with Scales,	Lythorn,
Highton,	Freckleton,	Greenhalgh with Thif-
Elston,	Warton,	lton,
Alston with Hotherfall,	Briningwith Kellamergh,	Elswick,
Goosnargh,	Ribby with Wrea,	Poulton,

\* Pays  $\frac{1}{12}$  of the county rates ; raises 64 militia men.

Thornton,	Great Eccleston,	Preefall with Hackinfall,
Marton,	Inskip with Sowerby,	Upper Rawcliffe,
Hardhorn with Newton,	Bispham with Norbreck,	Outer Rawcliffe,
Carlton,	Layton with Warbreck,	Myerscough Forest,
Little Eccleston with	Hambleton,	Bleadale Forest.
Larbreck,	Stalmin with Staynall,	

LONSDALE *Hundred*.\*

Lancaster,	Ulverstone,	Dalton with Hutton,
Caton with Claughton,	Carnforth and Burn-	Halton,
Middleton,	wick,	Overton,
Tatham with Ireby,	Aldingham,	Yealand with Silverdale,
Leck,	Holker,	Greslingham,
Skirton,	Nether Kellett,	Ashton,
Whittington,	Buck with Aldcliffe,	Thrumham,
Ellell,	Warton,	Farleton,
Urswick,	Causfield,	Dalton with Furness,
Burrow,	Tunstall,	Heysham,
Slyne with Hest,	Melling with Wreaton,	Alithwaite lower,
Kirby Ireleth,	Wrea,	—— upper,
Pennington,	Wennington,	Broughton,
Leese,	Arkhholme with Cawood,	Cockerham,
Poulton, Bare and Tor-	Horuby,	Overkellet,
risholme,	Heaton with Oxcliffe,	Quarmoor,
Scotforth,	Bolton,	Wyerfdale,

\* Pays  $\frac{1}{100}$  of the county rates ; raises 74 militia men.

With respect to ecclesiastical jurisdiction, Lancashire is part of the diocese of Chester, and is divided in the following manner :

### ARCHDEACONRY OF CHESTER.

#### DEANRY of MANCHESTER.

Parish Churches.	Chapels, &c.	Patrons.
Ashton-under-line, R.	- - -	E. of Stamford, Rector of Ashton.
	Hey or Lees,	Ditto.
	Mosley,	E. of Stamford.
	Stayley-bridge,	E. of Derby.
Bury, R.	- - -	Rector of Bury.
	St. John's Bury,	Ditto.
	Heywood,	Ditto.
	Holcombe,	Ditto.
	Edenfield,	Bishop of Chester.
Bolton le moors, V.	- - -	G. Gartside, Esq.
	Little Bolton,	V. of Bolton.
	Blackroad,	Ditto.
	Bradshaw,	M. Green, Esq.
	Turton,	V. of Bolton.
	Walmfley,	Inhabitants.
	Rivington,	The King.
Dean, V.	- - -	V. of Dean.
	Horwich,	Ditto.
	West Houghton,	The King.
Eccles, V.	- - -	D. of Bridgewater.
	Ellenbrook,	Preb. Flixton.
Flixton, Cur.	- - -	Ld. Suffield.
Middleton, R.	- - -	W. Egerton, Esq.
	Ashworth,	Cockey,



Parish Churches.	Chapels, &c.	Patrons.
	Cockey,	R. of Middleton.
Manchester, Coll. ch.	- - -	Warden, by the king ; 4 fellows and 2 chap lains, by the College.
—, St. Anne's, R.	- - -	B. of Chester.
—, St. John's, R.	- - -	Manchester College.
—, St. Mary's, R.	- - -	Ditto.
—, St. Paul's, Cur.	- - -	Ditto.
*	Ardwick,	Ditto.
	Birch,	J. Dickenson, Esq.
	Blakeley,	Manchester College.
	Cholerton or Chorlton,	Ditto.
	Denton,	Ld. Grey de Wilton.
	Didbury,	W. Broom, Esq.
	Goston or Gorton,	Manchester College.
	Heaton Norris,	Ditto.
	Newton,	Ditto.
	Salford,	J. Gore Booth, Esq.
	Stretford,	Manchester College.
Radcliffe, R.	- - -	Ld. Grey de Wilton.
Prestwich with Old- ham, R.	- - -	Rev. James Lyon.
	Oldham St. Mary, P.	R. of Prestwich, Bury, and Middleton.
	Ringley,	Ditto.
	Shaw,	R. of Prestwich.
	Unsworth,	Ditto.
	Royton,	Ditto.
	Hollingwood,	Ditto.
	Oldham chap.	Ditto.

Rochdale,

\* Other churches have been erected or are now erecting in Manchester.

Parish Churches.	Chapels, &c.	Patrons.
Rochdale, V.	- - -	Archb. Canterbury
	Rochdale,	V. Rochdale.
	Friarmere,	Ditto.
	Hundersfield,	Ditto.
	Littleborough,	Ditto.
	Milnrow,	Ditto.
	Todmerden,	Ditto.
	Whitworth,	Ditto.
DEANRY of WARRINGTON.		
Aughton, R.	- - -	T. Plumbe, Esq.
Childwall, V	- - -	B. of Chester.
	Hale,	J. Blackburne, Esq.
	Garston,	Heirs of Topham Beau- clerk, Esq.
Hallfal, R.	- - -	C. Mordaunt, Esq.
	Maghull,	R. of Halfall.
	Melling,	Ditto.
Huyton, V.	- - -	Ld. Sephton.
Leigh, V.	- - -	Starkey and Gwillim.
	Astley,	Inhabitants.
	Atherton or Chowbent,	— Gwillim, Esq.
Northmeols, R.	- - -	Rev. J. Baldwin.
Ormskirk, V.	- - -	E. of Derby.
	Latham dom. chap.	R. W. Bootle, Esq.
	Skelmersdale,	V. of Ormskirk.
Prescott, V.	- - -	King's Coll. Camb.
	St. Helen's in Windle,	V. of Prescott.
	Farnworth,	Ditto.

Rainford,

Parish Churches.	Chapels, &c.	Patrons.
	Rainford,	V. of Prescott.
	Sankey,	R. V. Atherton Gwilym, Esq.
Sephton, R.	- - -	
	Crosby Magna,	R. of Sephton.
Walton, R.	- - -	
———, V.	- - -	R. of Walton.
	Formby,	Ditto.
	Toxteth Park,	Ditto.
	Kirkby,	Ditto.
	West Derby,	Ditto.
	Richmond,	Corporation of Liverp.
Liverpool two medieties, R. (St. Peter and St. Nicholas.)	- - -	Ditto.
*	St. George's, Liverpool,	Ditto.
	St. Paul's, ditto,	Ditto.
	St. Thomas's, ditto,	Ditto.
	Altcar cur.	E. of Sephton.
Warrington, R.	- - -	R. V. A. Gwilym, Esq.
	Burtonwood,	R. of Warrington.
	Hollinfare,	Ditto.
	Trinity, Warrington,	T. Legh, of Lyme, Esq.
Wigan, R.	- - -	Sir H. Bridgeman.
	Billinge,	R. of Wigan.
	St. George's Wigan,	Ditto.
	Hindley,	Ditto.
	Holland,	Ditto.
Winwick, R.	- - -	E. of Derby.

\* Other churches have since been erected in Liverpool.

## GENERAL ACCOUNT

## Parish Churches.

## Chapels, &amp;c.

## Patrons.

Ashton,	R. of Winwick.
Newchurch,	R. of Winwick.
Lowton,	Ditto.
Newton,	T. Legh, Esq.

## DEANRY of BLACKBURNE.

## Blackburne, V.

- - -	Arch. Canterb.
Balderston,	V. of Blackburne.
Darwen,	Ditto.
Harwood,	Ditto.
Lango,	Ditto.
Law or Lowchurch, or	
Walton in le Dale,	Ditto.
Samlesbury.	Ditto.
Tockholes,	Ditto.

## Whalley, V.

- - -	Archb. Canterb.
Accrington,	V. of Whalley,
Altham,	Ashton Curzon, Esq.
Burnley,	E. Townley, Esq.
——— Castle, demolish-	
ed (the profits given to	
Whitwell.)	
Churchkirk,	A. Curzon, Esq.
Clithero,	Ditto.
Colne,	V. of Whalley.
Downham,	A. Curzon, Esq.
Haslingden,	Ditto.
Goodshaw (under Has-	V. of Whalley.
lingden,)	
Holme (under Burnley,)	Ditto.

Marfden

## Parish Churches.

## Chapels, &amp;c.

## Patrons.

Marliden (under Colne,)	V. of Whalley.
Newchurch in Pendle,	A. Curzon, Esq.
Newchurch in Rosen- dale,	V. of Whalley.
Padiham,	Legendre Starkie, Esq.
Whitwell,	V. of Whalley.

## DEANRY of LEYLAND.

Crofton, R. and V.	- - -	Rev. Dr. Maister.
Beaconsfall,		R. of Crofton,
Chorley,		Ditto.
Rufforth,		Ditto.
Tarleton,		T. Legh, Esq.
Brindle, R.	- -	D. of Devonshire.
Ecclelton, R.	- -	R. Whitehead, Esq.
	Douglas,	R. of Ecclelton.
Leyland, V.	- -	Rev. T. Baldwin.
	Euxton,	V. of Leyland.
	Heapy,	Ditto.
Hooke, R.	- -	Mr. Barton of Ormskirk.
Penwortham, perp. cur.	- -	Mr. Barton of Penwor- tham.
	Longton,	Ditto.
Standish, R.	- -	Mr. Standish.
	Copull,	S. Crooke, Esq.

## ARCHDEACONRY OF RICHMOND.

## DEANRY of AMOUNDERNESS.

Chipping, R. and V.	- - -	B. of Chester.
Garstang, V.	- - -	Trustees of Mr. Pedder.

## GENERAL ACCOUNT

Parish Churches.	Chapels, &c.	Patrons.
	Garstang,	V. of Garstang.
	Pilling,	G. Hornby, Esq.
Kirkham, V.	- - -	Christ Ch. Coll. Oxon.
	Goosénargh,	V. of Kirkham.
	Hambleton,	Ditto.
	Lund,	Ditto.
	Ribbey with Wray,	Ditto.
	Singleton,	Mr. Shaw.
	Warton,	V. of Kirkham.
	Whitechapcl,	Ditto.
Cockerham, V.	- - -	F. Charteris, Esq.
	Ellell,	V. of Cockerham.
	Shirehead,	Ditto.
Bispham, perp. cur.	- - -	B. Hesketh, Esq.
Lancaster, V.	- - -	Dr. Marton.
	Admarsh,	V. of Lancaster.
	Caton (Lonsdale deanry)	Ditto.
	Gressingham (ditto)	Ditto.
	St. John, Lancaster,	Ditto.
	Littledale (under Caton)	Inhabitants.
	Overton,	V. of Lancaster.
	Poulton,	Ditto.
	Stalmin,	Ditto.
	Wyresdale,	Ditto.
Lytham, perp. cur.	- - -	Prior. of Durham.
Poulton, V.	- - -	R. Hesketh, Esq.
Preston, V.	- - -	Sir H. Hoghton.
	Broughton,	Ditto.
	St. Laurence, (domest.)	Mr. Shuttleworth.
	St. George, Preston,	V. of Preston.
		Grimfargh,

Parish Churches.	Chapels, &c.	Patrons.
	Grimfargh,	V. of Preston.
Ribchester,	- - -	B. of Chester.
	Longridge,	Sir H. Hoghton.
	Stidd,	V. of Ribchester.
St. Michael's on Wyre, V.	- - -	Mr. Swainson.
	Copp,	V. of St. Michael's.
	Wood Plumptre,	Ditto.

## DEANRY of FURNESS and CARTMELL.

Aldingham, R.	- " -	The King.
	Dendron,	R. of Aldingham.
Dalton, V.	- - -	The King.
	Irelith,	V. of Dalton.
	Ramfide,	Ditto.
	Walney (island)	Ditto.
Cartmell, perp. cur.	- - -	B. of Chester.
	Cartmell Fell,	L. Geo. Cavendish.
	Flookborough,	Ditto.
	Lindall,	Ditto.
	Staveley,	Ditto.
	Field Broughton,	Cur. of Cartmell.
Coulton, perp. cur.	- - -	Inhabitants and owners paying salary.
	Timsthwait or Finsthwait,	Cur. of Coulton.
	Rusland,	Ditto.
Hawthhead, perp. cur.	- - -	The King.
	Satterthwaite,	Land Owners.
Kirkby Irelith, V.	- - -	Dean and Ch. York.
		Broughton,

Parish Churches.	Chapels, &c.	Patrons.
	Broughton,	Esther Sawrey.
	Seathwaite and Dunner-	
	dale,	W. Penny, Esq.
	Woodland, ]	Land Owners.
Pennington, perp. cur.	- - -	The King.
Ulverston, perp. cur.	- - -	W. Bradyll, Esq.
	Blawith,	Ditto.
	Coniston,	Inhabitants.
	Lowick,	W. F. Blencowe, Esq.
	Torver,	Cur. of Ulverston.
Urswick, V.	- - -	Inhabitants.

## DEANRY of KIRKBY LONSDALE.

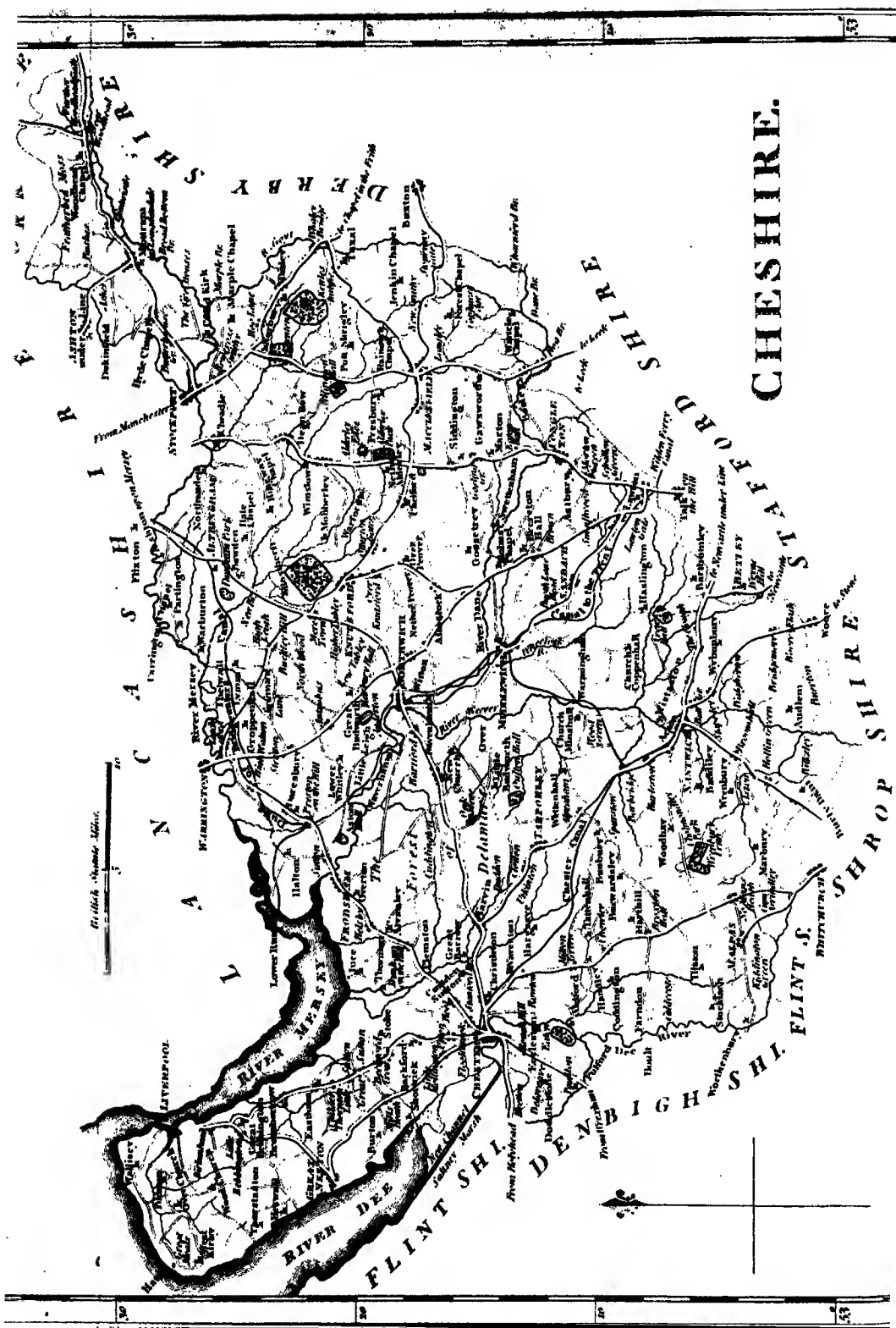
Claughton, R.	- - -	T. Legh, Esq.
Tatham, R.	- - -	Fr. Charteris, Esq.
	Tatham Fell,	R. of Tatham.
Whittington, R.	- - -	Rev. G. Hornby.
Melling, V.	- - -	The King.
	Archolm,	V. of Melling.
	Hornby,	F. Charteris, Esq.
Tunstall, V.	- - -	Heirs of Mrs. Borret.
	Leck,	V. of Tunstall.

## DEANRY of RICHMOND.

Bolton in the Sands, V.	- - -	B. of Chester.
	Over Kellet,	Mr. Leapor and Inhab.







# CHESHIRE.

British Standard Mile.



## II.—*General Account of* CHESHIRE.

**C**HESHIRE is bounded by Lancashire on the whole northern side, except a small point to the north-east where it touches Yorkshire; by Derbyshire and Staffordshire on the east; by Shropshire and a detached part of Flintshire on the south; by Denbighshire and the rest of Flintshire on the west, touching also upon the Irish sea at its north-western extremity.

The form of this county is distinguished by two horns or projections running east and west from its northern side; one of which is made by the hundred of Wirral lying between the estuaries of the Mersey and Dee, the other by a part of Macclesfield hundred, pushing out between Derbyshire and Yorkshire. A line drawn from the extremities of these two projections, measures 58 miles; but the extent of the county from east to west across its middle, does not exceed 40 miles. Its greatest extent from north to south is about 30 miles. It contains about 1040 square miles, or 665,600 acres.

*Face of the Country.*—Cheshire is for the most part a flat country, whence it has obtained the name of the *Vale Royal of England*, though this name properly refers to its central part, in which was situated the Abbey of Vale Royal, founded by Edward I. The principal hilly part is on the eastern border, where a chain of hills, some of them of considerable height, runs along its confines with Derbyshire and the north of Staffordshire, and joins the mountainous districts of those counties. There is likewise a lower and narrower chain of eminences,

nences, which beginning at Helsby and Overton, near Frodsham, in bold promontories above the Mersey, runs southward across the forest of Delamere, to Tarporley, starts up in the insulated rock of Beeston, and again appearing in the wooded Broxton hills, at length sinks in the vale of the Dee on the borders of Denbighshire. About a mile to the south of Altringham rises an elevated tract of ground called Bowden downs, which extends to a considerable distance from east to west. Its western extremity is covered with the wood of Dunham park. Bowden church is situated on the summit of this tract, from whence there is a most extensive view of a large part of Cheshire and the southern part of Lancashire. In various other parts the surface is varied by risings and depressions; but the general character is unanimated flatness. Four-fifths of the county are probably not elevated more than from 100 to 200 feet above the level of the sea. .

Many streams wind through its levels, most of which take their course northwards to join the great bordering river, the *Mersey*. This we shall first trace.

## R I V E R S.

The *Mersey* takes its origin from a conflux of small streams near the junction of Cheshire with Derbyshire and Yorkshire, and first forms the eastern limit of the eastern horn of Cheshire, under the name of the *Etherow* river. When arrived at the place where the Goyt meets it coming from the south, they together, taking a middle direction, flow across the root of the horn (as it may be termed) and reach Stockport. Here the *Tame*, which may be reckoned the other parent of the Mersey, and which forms the western limit of the eastern horn, falls in. From this junction, the Mersey, under its proper name, forms the  
4
boundary

boundary between Lancashire and Cheshire quite to the sea. It takes a very winding course, receiving continual accessions, of which the principal are the river Irwell out of Lancashire, and the Bollin from Cheshire, both which join it on its way to Warrington. Below this town it soon widens, having a large shallow channel, full at tide time, but exhibiting little except bare sand at low water. Opposite Runcorn it is suddenly contracted by a tongue of land from the Lancashire side, forming Runcorn Gap. It then spreads again, and soon receives the large addition of the Weaver from the heart of Cheshire. With this it swells into a broad estuary, and taking a north-western course, disembogues into the Irish channel below Liverpool.

The *Goyt* rises near the place where the road from Macclesfield to Buxton crosses the limits of the county, and it forms the boundary between Cheshire and Derbyshire till it meets the Etherow river near Chadkirk, as before described. The united streams keep the name of *Goyt* till they reach the Mersey at Stockport.

The *Bollin* rises in the hilly moors to the south of Macclesfield, and, passing that town, takes a north-west course through Prestbury and Wilmoslow, and joins the Mersey below Warburton.

The *Dane* rises near the junction of Derbyshire and Staffordshire with Cheshire, and forming for some way the limit between the two last counties, flows westerly by Congleton and Holms-chapel, to Middlewich, where it receives the Wheelock from the south. It then, turning northerly, passes Davenham in its course to Northwich, where it falls into the Weaver.

The *Wheelock*, rising near Lawton on the borders of Staffordshire, flows a little to the south of Sandbach in its course to join the Dane at Middlewich.

The *Weaver*, the principal river of the middle of Cheshire, rises on the edge of Shropshire, and holding a course almost directly north, passes Namptwich to Northwich, where, receiving the Dane, it turns westerly, and in a very winding course, flows to Frodsham-bridge, below which it mixes with the Mersey.

The *Dee*, coming from Denbighshire, reaches the border of Cheshire in the south-west, and forming for some way the limit of the two counties, passes between Holt and Farndon, and runs directly north to Chester. From this city it turns westward; and after flowing some miles in an artificial channel formed by embankment, at length spreads into a broad estuary separating Flintshire from the hundred of Wirral, and empties into the Irish sea.

There are in various parts of Cheshire small lakes or meers, of which the principal are *Budworth-meer*, *Rosthern-meer*, *Meer-meer*, and *Tatton-meer*, all in Bucklow hundred, some meers on Delamere forest, *Comber-meer* in Namptwich hundred, and *Bar-meer* not far from Malpas. Several of these are of considerable depth, and well furnished with fish.

The proportion of cultivated to waste land has been stated as follows :

Arable,

	Acres.
Arable, meadow, pasture, &c. about - - -	615,000
Waste lands, heaths, commons, greens, woods, -	30,000
Peat bogs and mosses, - - - - -	20,000
Common fields, probably less than - - -	1,000
Sea sands within the estuary of the Dee, - - -	10,000

676,000

### S O I L.

There are a great variety of soils in Cheshire; clay, sand, black moor or peat; marl and gravel, in various intermixed proportions, abound in different parts of the county. The three first, however, form the most predominant parts in the generally prevailing soils, and of these the largest proportion is a strong retentive clay. The substratum is generally rammel or clay, marl, sand, gravel, or red rock; but most commonly one of the two former, viz. clay or marl. The numerous mosses, marshy meadows, and peat bogs, which abound in different parts of the county, seem sufficiently to prove, that either clay, marl, or some other unctuous earth, is very generally at no great depth below the surface.

### STATE OF PROPERTY AND FARMS.

There are in Cheshire many very considerable estates possessed by gentlemen who have residencies within the county; and, indeed, it has been observed, that no county in England has preserved more of the race of its ancient gentry. The number of proprietors of land, possessing from 500 to 1000*l.* per annum rent, are also many. But the race of yeomanry is supposed to be much diminished; another species

of freeholder, however, has increased in those parts bordering on Lancashire and Yorkshire, where a number of small farms have been purchased by the manufacturers of cotton, &c. The tenure is almost universally freehold. There are some few copyholds, or what may be called customary freeholds, paying fines and rents certain, in Macclesfield, Halton, and one or two other manors. The land is occupied in farms of various extent; some may contain 500 acres and upwards; there are few, however, of more than 300 acres; though the practice (but too frequently a pernicious one) of laying farms together, seems to be increasing. On the whole, it is probable that there is at least one farmer to every eighty statute acres.

### AGRICULTURE AND PRODUCTS.

About three-fourths of the county is pastured or mown; the other fourth is ploughed. The land is generally ploughed in rotation. The usual course for stiff clayey land is to plough four years; first, oats; second, fallow for wheat; third, wheat; fourth, oats; and then laid down with clover or grass seeds, or both, and pastured five or six years before it is again broken into tillage. Sandy land is ploughed only three years, and frequently bears a crop every year.

The *Manures* are, marl, lime, farm-yard dung, and various kinds of compost. On the eastern part of the country, lime is chiefly used; and on the west and south, marl is the most general manure, of which there are various sorts, viz. the clay marl, the blue slate marl, the red slate marl, stone marls, &c. The clay marl is supposed to prevail most. The quantity of marl used, varies according to its quality, and the quality and nature of the soil on which it is laid. The quantity is from one to two roods, each rood being seventy-two solid yards and  
upwards,



upwards, on an acre; the expence of it filled into the cart is about two-pence a yard. Marl is generally laid upon the turf, and after the frost has had its effect upon it, it is sometimes harrowed before the field is broken up. When lime is used, it is commonly mixed with gutter clods, scourings of ditches, or soil; and laid on the land for barley. Farm-yard dung is frequently mixed with the soil off the sides of lanes, with furrows drawn from between the butts of pasture land, with gutter clods, ditchings, &c. and to these, marl or lime are sometimes added. Sand is frequently used as manure on stiff lands with great success.

Foul or dirtied salt is a most excellent manure, either for pasture land or fallows, when properly incorporated with soil, or other substances; and it is much to be regretted, that so large a quantity as 7 or 800 tons annually, in Cheshire alone, should be lost to the community. The heavy duty laid upon refuse, or dirtied salt, almost totally prevents its use for manure.

The markets for the overplus grain grown in Cheshire are chiefly Manchester, Stockport, and Macclesfield. The oats are generally first ground into meal, which is made into bread or cakes, and consumed in the N. E. of Cheshire and south of Lancashire.

*Green crops*, as winter food for cattle, are very little cultivated: there are, however, very considerable quantities of potatoes and carrots grown on the north side of the county, which are chiefly intended for the supply of the Lancashire markets.

Potatoes are cultivated in the parish of Frodsham, with as much success, and probably to as great an extent, as in any other parish in the kingdom. It is estimated, that not less than 100,000 bushels of 90lb. weight, have annually, for some years past, been grown in this parish; and a ready sale has generally been found for them, owing to the great demand for this root in Lancashire, and to an easy and cheap communication with Liverpool, by means of the river Mersey, and with Manchester, by the duke of Bridgewater's canal. In years of plenty, when the market is overstocked with potatoes, and the price is so low as one shilling per bushel, considerable quantities have been given to different kinds of stock, viz. to feeding cattle, milch cows, horses and hogs.

*Dairies and cattle.*—The most noted part for the production of cheese is said to lie in the neighbourhood of the Witches, especially Namptwich, where the soil is more clayey than in other parts; but there is more or less made in every part of the county. The best Cheshire cheeses run from 60 to 140 pounds weight. Their excellence depends partly on the size, and partly on various nice and minute circumstances in the making, only to be learned by experience, and which constitute the art of the very able and careful dairy-women of this county. The cheese is generally made with two meals milk, and that in dairies where two cheeses are made in a day. In the beginning and end of the season, three, four, and even five or six meals are kept for the same cheese. The proportion of cream withheld from the milk before it is put together, varies; but the general custom in the best dairies is to take out about a pint of cream when two meal cheeses are made, from the night's milk of twenty cows. The principal late improvement in  
cheese-

cheefe-making has been the mode of preparing the *steep* or *rennet*, by infusing all the maw-skins at once, and saturating the strained liquor with salt. The colouring of cheefe is Spanish annotta. On the dairy farms one woman servant is generally kept to every ten cows, who is employed in winter in spinning and other household business, but in milking is assisted by all the other servants of the farm. The cheefe is chiefly sold in London, being exported from Chester, Frodsham-bridge, and Warrington. The Liverpool merchants buy some. A good deal is disposed of to country dealers in Yorkshire and Lancashire, and some goes into Scotland. The cattle in Cheshire are probably kept to a greater age than in most other counties; for as the chief object with the farmers is their milk, when they meet with a good milker, they generally keep it till very old. The proper season for calving is reckoned to be from the beginning of March to the beginning of May; and during these months more veal is probably fed in Cheshire than in any other county, though generally killed young in order to spare the milk. As cows are kept chiefly for milking, and very few are fed, the farmers are less attentive to the beauty of their cattle than in many other counties, though they begin to be more curious in their breeds than formerly.

*Horses, sheep, swine.*—The horses employed in husbandry are generally of the strong black kind, the best of which are purchased in Derbyshire. The breed of the county is nothing remarkable, but has been improved by mixtures with the Leicestershire kinds. Few sheep are kept on the farms; what are kept, the farmers chiefly purchase in the neighbouring counties. Each common or waste maintains a few; but on Delamere forest great numbers are kept, which are small, and of a fine-wooled kind. This breed has been lately improved by crosses with

with the Herefordshire. The breed of hogs usually kept is a mixture between the long and short-eared.

*Woods and Timber.*—Cheshire is in general a very woody county. It is probably owing to this circumstance, and to the large supply of hides from the manufacturing towns of Lancashire, that great numbers of tanners are settled in it, particularly in the middle and north parts. Besides the hides of cattle slaughtered at home, they have a large supply from Ireland. The oak bark, in order to prepare it for use, was formerly universally, and is now by many tanners, ground down by a heavy stone wheel turned by a horse. Instead of this, several now use cast-iron cylinders, between which the bark is passed, and is thus more completely ground with less labour. Some experiments were lately made by an ingenious tanner in Ashley with the twigs and ends of the boughs of oak as a substitute for the bark. His success has been such as to convince him that leather may be tanned with them almost equally well as with the bark. The leather prepared in Cheshire is principally consumed in the circumjacent parts, and very little of it is exported. Besides the common use of it in shoes, boots, saddlery, &c. a very considerable quantity is employed in the machinery of the cotton manufactory, for straps, coverings for the rollers, &c.

Some of the largest oaks in the kingdom grow in Lord Stamford's park at Dunham. There are single trees elsewhere larger than any here, but no where so many large trees together. At Morley near Wilmslow a remarkable oak was felled in spring 1793. The principal trunk rose above six yards from the ground, and there gave off four large branches at nearly equal distances, each itself being a large tree. All together contained about 470 feet of timber. The trunk immediately

ately above the ground was 41 feet in circumference; at four yards height, 32 feet. It was hollow, and its cavity would easily admit six or eight people.

### MINERALS.

The mineral product for which Cheshire is most remarkable is its salt, with which it is stored in inexhaustible quantities. The particulars respecting this article will hereafter be mentioned more minutely. It is enough here to observe, that it is found in the two states of solid rock, and brine springs. The first is obtained only at Northwich, where large quantities are raised, part of which is refined on the spot, and part exported in its rough state. Brine springs are met with in several places in the county, and the salt is procured from them by boiling. The average quantity of salt made annually in Cheshire is upwards of 74,000 tons, of which, as well as of the unrefined rock salt, a great proportion is exported abroad, forming a very beneficial article of commerce. That consumed at home pays a large sum to the public revenue.

Coals are procured in considerable quantity in the north-eastern part of the county near Poynton. They are small and of a folding quality. Some are also got in the hundred of Wirrall.

Quarries of stone of various kinds are wrought in different parts. Slate and flags are got at Kerridge on the hills near Macclesfield. Stone for building is procured from the eastern hills, also at Millington near Bucklow-hill, at Hill-cliff near Warrington, at Hefswell near Parkgate, and in many other places. It has been remarked, that almost every village on the north side of Cheshire is situated upon a bed of

red rock, which in many parts lies bare. Mill-stones are got on Mole-cop, which are sent to various parts of the country.

At Newbold Aftbury, about three miles from Congleton, at the edge of Mole-cop, large quantities of lime-stone are dug. It is burned upon the spot, the coal for the purpose being procured from Staffordshire, at the distance of about three miles. This lime-stone is heavier than that of Buxton, and when burnt has more of a grey ash colour. It has lately come into very general use as a manure, and many farmers upon comparison prefer it to the Buxton lime. It is longer in breaking down, but swells more, and is thought to be more durable in effect. Its price is about 5½d. per bushel.

About five miles to the north-west of Macclesfield is an elevated tract of ground called Alderley-edge. Some stone used for building and other purposes is got here; and both copper and lead ore have been found, the former in pretty considerable quantity. The ore lies near to the surface, but is of too poor a quality to pay the expence of getting and smelting. It was attempted to be worked many years ago, and the attempt was not long since renewed, but without success.

#### CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL STATE.

This county is one of those which in the time of the Romans was inhabited by the people named *Cornavii*. By the Saxons it was termed *Cestrescyre*; and its modern appellation is the *County Palatine of Chester*. The reason of the title *Palatine* was, that the earls of Chester enjoyed palatine jurisdiction; that is, the inhabitants were tenants in chief to them alone, and they to the king. The courts of law were held in their name; and they had a sort of miniature parliament at which

which their great tenants or barons, and their vassals, attended. The succession of earls becoming extinct in the reign of Henry III. the king made his eldest son earl of Chester, which title has ever since been attached to the eldest sons of the crown.

The jurisdiction of the county palatine extends as well over the county of the city of Chester, as over the county of Chester. The Chief Justice of Chester has the same jurisdiction over the courts of the city, as the Chief Justice of the King's Bench has over the different courts of the kingdom at large; and issues writs of *latitat* and *certiorari* into the city, the latter of which writs removes indictments and complaints into the county-palatine court before the Chief Justice. His determinations have the same weight and effect as those of the Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and are impeachable only in the same way. The exchequer court of the county-palatine is a court of equity; and the decrees of the chamberlain or his vice-chamberlain are only subject to revision and appeal in the House of Lords. In this court is also a Baron, answering to the Remembrancer in the Court of Exchequer above; also a Seal-keeper, Filazer, Examiner, Cryer, &c. Its sittings, which were till lately held twice a year, are now only held once.

Cheshire is divided into seven hundreds, exclusive of the city of Chester, which is a county of itself. It contains one city and 11 market towns; sends four members to parliament; pays seven parts out of 513 of the English land-tax, and furnishes 560 men to the national militia. Each hundred has two subdivisions, for each of which there are two high constables. The following is a list of townships, vills, and places contained in each hundred.

MACCLESFIELD *Hundred.*

Bredbury,	Stockport,	Hurdsfield,
Brinnington,	Tintwistle,	Henbury cum Pexall,
Bromhall,	Taxall,	Kettlehulme,
Cheadle,	Torkington,	Marton,
Duckinfield,	Werneth,	Macclesfield,
Disley and Standley,	Yeadley cum Whaley,	Mottram Andrew,
Etchels,	Adlington,	Poynton,
Godley,	Alderley Superior,	Pownall Fec,
Hyde,	Alderley Inferior,	Prestbury,
Hattersley,	Birtles,	Pott Shrigley,
Hollinworth,	Bollin Fec,	Rainow,
Marple,	Bollington,	Rode, <i>vulgo</i> North Rode,
Matley,	Bosley,	Snelson,
Mottram, in Longden- dale,	Butley cum Newton,	Sutton Downes cum Wincle,
Norbury,	Chelford cum Old Wi- thington,	Siddington,
Northenden,	Chorley,	Somerford Booth,
Newton,	Eaton,	Tytherington,
Offerton,	Falibroome,	Upton,
Romiley,	Gawsworth,	Warford Magna,
Stayley,		Withington Inferior.

BUCKLOW *Hundred.*

Agden,	Bexton,	Dunham Maffey,
Altrincham,	Bollington,	Hale,
Ashley,	Bowden,	Knutsford Inferior,
Ashton super Mersey,	Carrington,	Knutsford Superior,
Baguley,	Cogshul,	Legh, <i>vulgo</i> High Legh, Marston,



Marston,	Wincham,	Lymme,
Marshall, cum Little	Acton Grange,	Little Leigh,
Warford,	Aston juxta Sutton,	Latchford,
Mere,	Aston Grange,	Marbury,
Millington,	Aston juxta Budworth,	Middleton Grange,
Mobberly,	Anderton,	Moore,
Ollerton,	Barnton,	Newton prope Darcs-
Partington,	Batherton,	bury,
Peover Superior,	Budworth, <i>vulgo</i> Great	Norton,
Peover Inferior,	Budworth,	Preston,
Pickmeir,	Clifton, <i>alias</i> Rock Sa-	Runcorn,
Plumbley,	vage,	Stockham,
Rosthern,	Cumberbach,	Stretton,
Salc,	Darcsbury,	Sutton,
Tabley Superior,	Dutton,	Thelwall,
Tabley Inferior,	Groppenhall,	Walton Inferior,
Tatton,	Halton,	Walton Superior,
Timperley,	Hatton,	Weston,
Tost,	Hull and Appleton,	Whitley Inferior,
Warburton,	Kekewick,	Whitley Superior.

NORTHWICH *Hundred.*

Artclid,	Elton,	Moston,
Buglawton,	Goostrey cum Barnshaw,	Newbold Astbury,
Bradwell,	Hulme and Walfield,	Odd Rode,
Brereton cum Smeth-	Church Hulme,	Smallwood,
wick,	Church Lawton,	Summerford cum Rad-
Congleton,	Kerminchiam,	nor,
Cotton,	Moreton cum Alcomlow,	Sandbach,
Davenport,	Mosebarrow cum Parme,	Sproston,
		Swettenham,

Swettenham,	Hulse,	Nether Peover,
Twemlow,	Lach Dennis,	Ravencroft,
Tetton,	Lees,	Rudheath Lordship,
Warminsham,	Leftwich,	Shipbrooke,
Weeclock,	Loftock Gralam,	Shurlach cum Bradford,
Allowstock,	Kinderton cum Hulme,	Stanthorne,
Byley cum Yatehouse,	Middlewich,	Stubs and Lach,
Birches,	Minshull Vernon,	Sutton,
Bostock,	Moulton,	Wharton,
Clive,	Newhall,	Whatecroft,
Cranage,	Newton,	Witton cum Twam-
Croxton,	Northwich,	broke,
Davenham,	Occleston,	Wimboldsley.
Eyton prope Davenham,		

*EDDISBURY Hundred.*

Alraham,	Tarporley,	Bruen Stapleford,
Beefton,	Tiverton,	Cuddington,
Bunbury,	Tilston Fernal,	Crowton,
Budworth,	Utkinton,	Clotton Hoofield,
Calveley,	Wardle,	Castle Northwich,
Eaton cum Rushton,	Weever,	Dunham,
Heighton,	Wettenhall,	Duddon,
Idenshall,	Alvanley,	Elton,
Merton,	Ashton,	Frodsham,
Over cum Darnhall,	Acton,	Hapsford,
Oulton Lowe,	Burton,	Helsby,
Peckforton,	Bridge Trafford,	Horton cum Peck,
Ridley,	Barrow Magna,	Hockenhull,
Spurstow,	Barrow Parva,	Hartford,

Kelfall,	Norley,	Waverham cum Mil-
Ince,	Oulton, <i>alias</i> Oufston,	ton,
Kingsley,	Tarvin,	Walaton, <i>alias</i> Willing-
Manley,	Thornton,	ton,
Mouldsworth,	Wallerfoat,	Wimbolds Trafford;
Newton,		Winnington.

NAMPTWICH *Hundred.*

Acton,	Minshall,	Doddington,
Alfager;	Namptwich,	Hankilow,
Alvanderston,	Poole,	Hatherton,
Aston juxta Mondrum,	Stoake,	Hough,
Auflerton,	Willaston,	Hunsterston,
Baddington,	Wistaston,	Lca,
Barthomley,	Worleston,	Marbury cum Quoifley,
Betchton,	Wolfstanwood,	Newhall,
Brindley,	Audlem,	Norbury,
Burland,	Baddiley,	Rope,
Cholmondeston,	Bridgemere,	Shavington cum Gresty,
Church Coppenhall,	Basford,	Sound,
Monks Coppenhall,	Batherton,	Stapeley,
Crewe,	Blackenhall,	Titley,
Edlafton,	Bromhall,	Walgherton,
Faddiley,	Buerton,	Weston,
Haslington,	Checkley cum Wrinehill,	Wybunbury,
Hassall,	Chorley,	Wirefwall,
Henhull,	Chorlton,	Wrenbury,
Hurleston,	Coolc Pilate,	Woodcott.
Leighton,	Dodcot cum Wilkesley,	

*BROXTON Hundred.*

Aldford,	Horton,	Dodleston,
Aldersey,	Harthill,	Eccleston,
Agden,	Duckington,	Eaton,
Barton,	Larckton,	Golborn David,
Bulkeley,	Maccfen,	Golborn Bellow,
Burwardsfley,	Malpas,	Hoole,
Broxtan,	Newton juxta Malpas,	Huxley,
Bickley,	Old Castle,	Hatton,
Bickerton,	Overton,	Kinnerton,
Bradley,	Stockton,	Lea and Newbold,
Chowley,	Shocklach Oviat,	Lach,
Coddington,	Stretton,	Moston,
Chidlow,	Tushingham cum Grind-	Marlston,
Cuddington,	ley,	Newton juxta Suxton,
Chorlton,	Tilston,	Newton juxta Tatten-
Church Shocklach,	Wigland,	hall,
Caldecot,	Wighalgh,	Pickton,
Cholmondeley,	Boughton,	Poulton,
Crewe,	Buerton,	Pulford,
Carden,	Bach,	Sutton,
Clutton,	Coghull,	Stapleford,
Edge,	Chrifleton Parva,	Saighton,
Edgerley,	Church Chrifleton,	Trafford,
Egerton,	Row Chrifleton,	Tattenhall,
Farndon,	Claverton,	Upton,
Grafton,	Cotton,	Wervin,
Handley,	Cotton Edmunds,	Waverton.
Hampton,	Churton Heath,	

WIRRAL *Hundred.*

Backford,	Saughall Magna cum	Gayton,
Bromborow,	Woodbank,	Hofwall cum Oldfield,
Burton,	Saughall Parva,	Irby,
Blacon cum Crabhall,	Shotwick,	Knoctorum,
Capenhurst,	Stanney Magna,	Kirkby cum Wallasey,
Childer Thornton,	Stanney Parva,	Liscard,
Croughton,	Stoake,	Landican,
Chorlton,	Sutton Magna,	Moreton,
Eastham cum Plimyard,	Sutton Parva,	Meols Magna,
Hooton cum Ranacre,	Thornton Mayes,	Meols Parva,
Lea,	Whitby,	Newton cum Larton,
Ledsham,	Willaston,	Oxton,
Leighton,	Arrow,	Poulton cum Scacombe,
Mollington Banister,	Brimstage,	Poulton cum Spittle,
Mollington Torrett,	Bebbington Superior,	Prenton,
Nesse,	Bebbington Inferior,	Pennesby,
Neston Magna,	Barnston,	Saughall Maffie,
Neston Parva cum Har-	Bidston cum Liscard,	Storeton,
grave,	Caldey Magna, or	Thurstaston,
Poole Superior,	Grange,	Thingwall,
Poole Inferior,	Caldey Parva,	Tranmore,
Puddington,	Claughton cum Grange,	Upton,
Raby,	Frankby,	Wesliskirby.
Rough Shotwick,	Greasby,	Woodechurch.

In the assessments for county rates, when the whole sum to be raised is £.1000 the following proportions are levied on each hundred :

						£.	s.	d.
Macclesfield Hundred,	-	-	-	-	-	166	9	2
Bucklow ditto,	-	-	-	-	-	141	15	5
Northwich ditto,	-	-	-	-	-	128	18	4
Eddisbury ditto,	-	-	-	-	-	108	9	2
Namptwich ditto,	-	-	-	-	-	168	14	7
Broxton ditto,	-	-	-	-	-	150	0	5
Wirrall ditto,	-	-	-	-	-	135	12	11

### ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISION.

The county of Chester is contained within the diocese of the same name, which was erected into a bishopric by Henry VIII. in the year 1541, and belongs to the province of York. It contains two archdeaconries, those of Chester and Richmond. Cheshire is entirely within the former. It is subdivided into the following deanries and parishes :

#### DEANRY of CHESTER.

Parish Churches.	Chapels, &c.	Patrons.
St. Mary on the Hill, Chester, R.	- - -	M. Wilbraham.
St. Oswald, Chester, V.	- - -	D. and Ch. of Chester.
	Brucra, or Church on the Heath,	
St. Peter, Chester, perpetu- cur.	- - -	B. of Chester.
Trinity Chester, R.	- - -	E. of Derby.
	St. Bridget's Chester, R.	B. of Chester.
	St. John Baptist, Chester, V.	T. Adams, Esq.
		Little

## Parish Churches.

## Chapels, &amp;c.

## Patrons.

	Little St. John's, Chester,	cur.	Corp. of Chester.
	St. Martin, Chester, R.		B. of Chester.
	St. Michael, Chester,	cur. p.	Ditto.
	St. Olave, Chester, cur.		Ditto.
Barrow, R.	-	-	E. Cholmondeley.
Chrifleton, R.	-	-	Sir R. Mostyn.
Dodkington, R.	-	-	D. and Ch. Chester.
Eccleston, R.	-	-	Ld. Grosvenor.
Pleniston, perp. cur.	-	-	Sir H. Bridgman.
Pulford, R.	-	-	Sir P. Warburton.
Tarvin, V.	-	-	Preb. of Tarvin in Litchf. Cath.
	Hargrave,		Trustees.
Thornton, R.	-	-	T. Hill, Esq.
Tarporley, R.	-	-	J. Arden, Esq.
Waverton, R.	-	-	Bishop of Chester.
	Farndon, P.		Ld. Grosvenor.
	Gilden Sutton, cur. p.		Sir J. Stanley.
	Ince, p.		R. Hill Waring, Esq.

## DEANRY of FRODSHAM.

Ashton upon Mersey, R.	-	-	Rev. W. Johnston.
Bowden, V.	-	-	B. of Chester.
	Carrington,		E. of Stamford.
	Ringey,		J. Crewe, Esq.
Budworth, V.	-	-	Christ Ch. Oxon.
	Little Leigh,		V. of Budworth.

## GENERAL ACCOUNT

Parish Churches.	Chapels, &c.	Patrons.
	Nether Peover,	Sir J. Fl. Leycester.
	Nether Whitley, dom.	Sir J. Chetwode.
	Whitton P. Northwich,	Sir J. F. Leycester.
Frodham, V.	- - -	Christ Ch. Oxon.
	Alvandley,	J. Arden, Esq.
Grappenhall, R.	- - -	Rev. P. Halford.
	Latchford,	R. of Grappenhall.
Lymm, R. (two me-	- - -	Sir P. Warburton.
diotics).	- - -	Egerton Leigh.
	Warburton, supplied by the Rector of one mediety,	
Runcorn, V.	- - -	Christ Ch. Oxon.
	Aston,	H. Harvey Aston, Esq.
	Daresbury, P.	
	Halton,	J. Cheshyre, Esq.
	Thelwall, P.	E. Pickering, Esq.
Rosthern, V.	- - -	Ld. Vernon.
	High Leigh, (domest.)	
	Knutsford, V.	Lords of four adjacent manors.
	Over Peover,	Sir H. Mainwaring.
Waverham, V.	- - -	B. of Chester.
Whitegate, R.	- - -	Mr. Cholmondeley.

## DEANRY of MACCLESFIELD.

Alderley, R.	- - -	G. Hartley, Esq.
Cheadle, R.	- - -	S. Buck, Esq.
Gawsworth, R.	- - -	Mrs. Parrott.



Parish Churches.	Chapels, &c.	Patrons.
Mobberley, R.	- - -	T. Mallory.
Mottram, R.	- - -	B. of Chester.
	Woodhead,	Ditto.
Northenden, R.	- - -	D. and Ch. Chester.
Prestbury, V.	- - -	C. Legh, Esq.
	Adlington, dom.	Mrs. Legh.
	Bosley, P.	V. of Prestbury.
	Capethorn, C.	D. Davenport, Esq.
	Chelford, P.	Mr. Parker.
	Forct Chap.	E. of Derby.
	Macclesfield, P.	Mayor of Macclesfield.
	Christ Church, Maccles-	
	field,	W. Roe, Esq.
	Marton,	D. Davenport, Esq.
	Pott Chap.	P. Downes, Esq.
	Poynton,	Sir G. Warren.
	Rainow,	V. of Prestbury.
	Wincle,	Ditto.
	Saltersford,	Ditto.
	Siddington.	D. Davenport, Esq.
Stockport, R.	- - -	Mary Prescott.
	Chadkirk,	R. of Stockport.
	Disley,	T. Legh, Esq.
	Norbury,	Ditto.
	Marple,	R. of Stockport.
	St. Peter, Stockport,	Rev. H. O. Wright.
Taxall, R.	- - -	Rev. J. Swain.
Wilmslow, R.	- - -	Gilb. Berresford, Esq.

DEANRY of MALBAN WICH, *alias* NAMPTWICH.

Parish Churches.	Chapels, &c.	Patrons.
Acton, V.	- - -	Wilbrah. Tollemache, Esq.
	Burleydam,	Sir R. S. Cotton.
	Wrenbury,	V. of Acton.
Audlem, R.	- - -	Rev. W. Wicksted.
Baddiley, R.	- - -	Sir H. Mainwaring.
Barthumley, R.	- - -	E. Mainwaring, Esq.
	Haslington,	Sir T. Broughton.
Coppenhall, R.	- - -	B. of Litchf. and Cov.
	Church Minshull, P.	T. Brooke, Esq.
Namptwich, R.	- - -	J. Crewe, Esq.
Wibunbury, V.	- - -	B. of Litchf. and Cov.
Wistaston, R.	- - -	P. Walthall, Esq.
	Bunbury, cur.	Comp. of Haberdashers, London.
	Burwardisley, chap. to Bunbury,	
	Marbury, supplied by the R. of Whitchurch,	

## DEANRY of MALPAS.

Aldford, R.	- - -	Ld. Grosvenor.
Malpas, (two portions)	- - -	W. Drake, Esq.
Tattenhall, R.	- - -	B. of Chester.
Tylston, R.	- - -	Ld. Cholmondeley.

## DEANRY of BANGOR.

Parish Churches.	Chapels, &c.	Patrons.
Coddington, R.	- - -	D. and Ch. Chester.
Handley, R.	- - -	Ditto.
	Harthill, cur. p.	W. Drake, Esq.
	Shocklach, p.	T. Puleston, Esq.

## DEANRY of MIDDLEWICH.

Ailbury, R.		P. Brooke, Esq.
	Congleton,	Corp. of Congleton.
	Little Budworth, cur. p.	B. of Chester.
Brereton, R.	- - -	Sir Lister Holt.
Davenham, R.	- - -	T. Brock, Esq.
Sandbach, V.	- - -	Mary Haddon.
	Goofrey, ch. p.	} V. of Sandbach.
	Holms-chapel,	
Swetenham, R.	- - -	Ab. Painter.
Warmingham, R.	- - -	Ph. Egerton, Esq.
Eawton, R.	- - -	J. Lawton, Esq.
Middlewich, V.	- - -	If. Wood, Esq.
Over, V.	- - -	B. of Chester.
	Wetenhall, p.	V. of Over.
Whitegate, <i>alias</i> New-	- - -	Mr. Cholmondeley.
church, V.	- - -	

## DEANRY of WIRRAL.

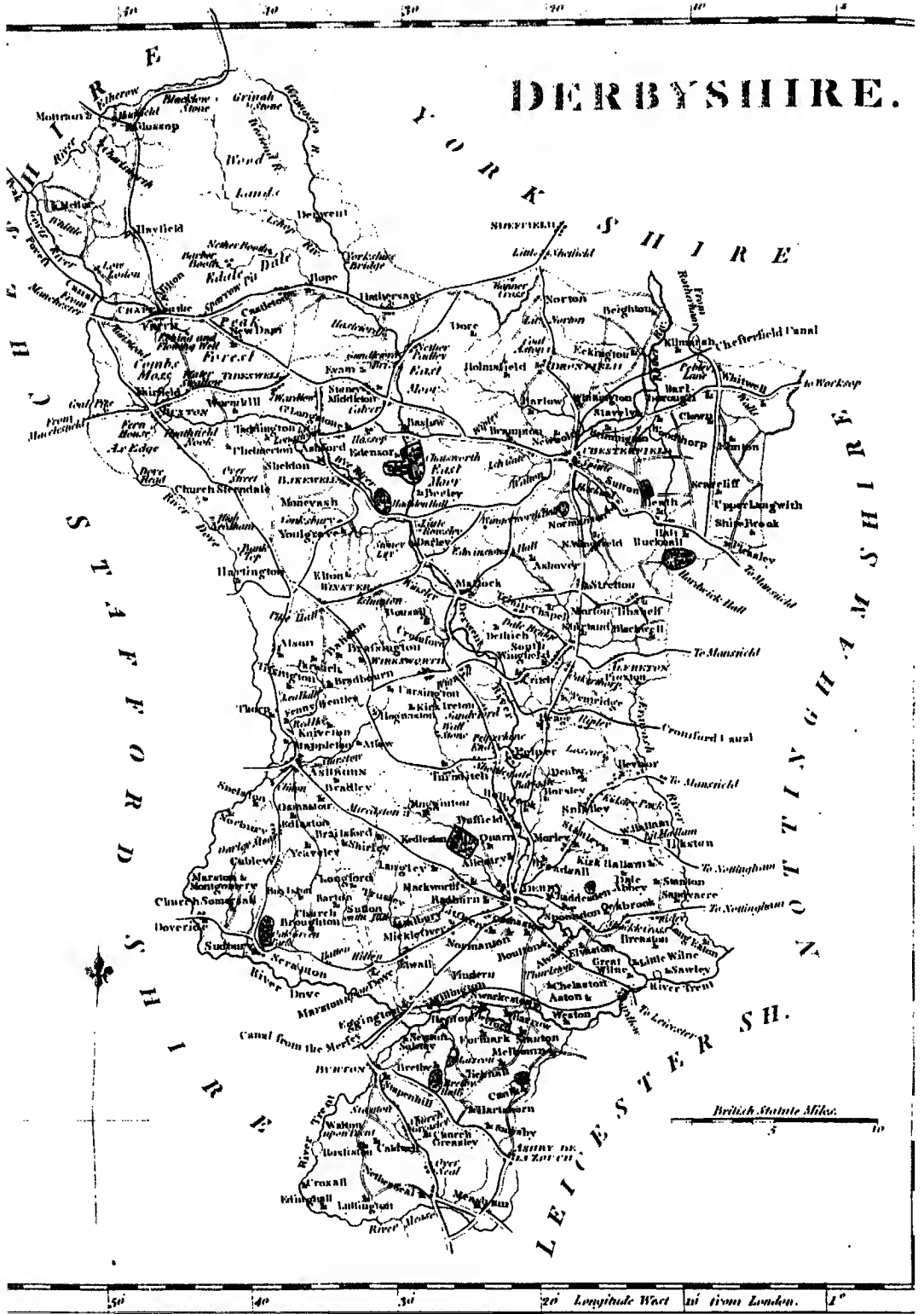
Behington, R.	- - -	Rev. S. Jackson.
Backford, V.	- - -	B. of Chester.
Eastham, V.	- - -	D. and Ch. Chester.

Heswall,

Parish Churches.	Chapels, &c.	Patrons.
Hefwall, R.	- - -	R. Davenport, Esq.
West Kirkby, R.	- - -	D. and Ch. Chester.
Neston, V.	- - -	Ditto.
Woodchurch, R.	- - -	— Crookhall.
Thurstaston, R.	- - -	D. and Ch. Chester.
Wallissey, R. Med.	- - -	B. of Chester.
	Biditon cum Ford,	Ditto.
	Birkenhead, Ch. to Bid-	
	ston,	R. P. Price, Esq.
	Bromborow,	D. and Ch. Chester.
	Burton, cur.	Maft. of Hosp. of St.
		John Bapt. Litchf.
	Over Church in Upton,	
	cur.	Rev. S. Jackson.
	Shotwick, cur.	D. and Ch. Chester.
	Stoke, cur.	Sir T. C. Bunbury.



# DERBYSHIRE.



### III.—DERBYSHIRE *in General*.\*

**D**ERBYSHIRE is bounded to the north by Yorkshire and part of Cheshire, the river Etherow being its separation from the latter; to the west, by Cheshire and Staffordshire, its limits almost all the way being the Goyt, and the Dove and Trent; to the south and south-east by Leicestershire; and to the east by Nottinghamshire. It is situated nearly in the middle of the island, at an equal distance from the east and west seas. Its principal extent is almost directly from north to south, in which direction it measures about 55 miles. Its greatest breadth is at the northern extremity, where it measures about 33 miles, from which it contracts, though irregularly, on advancing towards the southern, where it is very narrow. A portion of this extremity is insulated by Leicestershire. The county is estimated to contain 720,640 acres.

*Face of the Country.*—A considerable part of the county is distinguished from the rest by being a mountainous tract, and one of the most celebrated of the kind in England. From nearly the middle of Derbyshire, that chain of hills arises, which stretching northwards, is continued in a greater or less breadth quite to the borders of Scotland, and forms a natural boundary between the east and west sides of the northern part of the kingdom. Its course in this county is inclining a little to the west. It spreads as it advances northerly, and at length fills up the whole of the north-west angle, also overflowing a little, as it were, towards the eastern parts. The hills are at first of small eleva-

\* For the general and particular accounts of Derbyshire we are much indebted to the Rev. Mr. Pilkington's accurate and valuable history of that county.

tion ; but being in their progress piled upon one another, they form very elevated ground in the tract called the *High Peak*, though without any eminences which can rank among the loftiest mountains even of this island. The two most distinguished heights in the Peak are Ax-edge on the limits of the county near Buxton, and Kinder-scout, in the centre of the north-west angle. The former was calculated by Mr. Whitehurst to be about 2100 feet higher than the town of Derby, and 1000 feet above the valley in which Buxton-hall stands. Kinder-scout has not been measured ; but as it overlooks all the surrounding eminences, it is supposed to have a still greater elevation. The superior height of these two points is further confirmed by the observation that clouds rest on them when they pass over the intermediate high grounds.

The High Peak is a region of bleak barren heights and long-extended moors, interspersed with deep narrow valleys, through which the small streams take their course. Some of these offer agreeable prospects of fertility ; but on the whole, the tract is one of the least pleasing, being destitute of most of the romantic beauties of other mountainous countries. It contains several natural curiosities, such as deep caverns and apertures in the ground, which have had their full share of admiration under the name of the *Wonders of the Peak* : they will hereafter be more particularly mentioned. The tract called the *Low Peak*, lying near the centre of the county, likewise contains hills of various height and extent, affording large prospects into the neighbouring counties. The east side of the county has also a high ridge extending from Hardwick in a northern direction to the Yorkshire border. The southern part of Derbyshire is for the most part a pleasant and fertile country, not distinguished in its appearance from the other midland counties.

The



The banks of the Trent are a range of low meadows, subject to inundations.

## RIVERS.

The principal river of this county is the *Derwent*. It rises from the junction of various rills out of the High Peak, which appear in one stream near Hatherfage. Taking a southern course a little inclining to the east, it passes through Chatsworth park, below which it receives the *Wye* coming down from Buxton and Bakewell. It flows through the romantic dale of Matlock, and at length reaches Derby, having so far divided the county into an eastern and western part nearly equal in dimensions. From Derby it suddenly turns more to the east, and mixes with the Trent on the Leicestershire border near Wilne. It is made navigable from Derby to the Trent. The current of the Derwent is rapid, and the temperature of its waters has been observed to be warmer than that of rivers in general, which may be ascribed to the mixture of warm springs. It frequently in the summer raises the thermometer to 66 degrees.

The *Dove*, rising a little to the south of Buxton, on the Staffordshire limit, holds a course nearly parallel to the Derwent, serving for the boundary of the two counties all the way to its junction with the Trent a little below Burton. In its tract it passes through the very romantic Dove dale. It is augmented by many little streams on the south-western side of Derbyshire.

The *Trent* itself holds but a short part of its course through this county. Coming out of Staffordshire, it reaches the border of Derbyshire at its south-western point. After making the boundary for some

miles, at its junction with the Dove it enters the county, and passing from west to east across its narrowest part, it reaches the Leicestershire border. It there becomes again the boundary, till it enters Nottinghamshire. It is navigable during all this course.

. The *Errewash*, rising about the middle of the eastern border, runs southward, forming the boundary between Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire till its junction with the Trent.

The *Rotber*, taking its rise to the south of Chesterfield, passes that town, and holds a north-eastern course till it enters Yorkshire.

### CLIMATE.

The mountainous part of Derbyshire is distinguished from the rest by the greater quantity of rain which falls in it. At Chatsworth, which is by no means the highest part, about 33 inches of rain have been found to fall annually at a medium. The High Peak is peculiarly liable to very violent storms, in which the rain descends in torrents, so as frequently to occasion great ravages in the lands: it is also subject to very high winds. These causes, together with the elevation of the country, render it cold; so that vegetation is backward and unkindly. Some kinds of grain will not grow at all in the Peak, and others seldom ripen till very late in the year. The atmosphere is, however, pure and healthful, and the higher situations are generally free from epidemic diseases, though agues and fevers sometimes prevail in the vallies. One disease is, however, endemic in these parts, and even as far south as Derby, which is the bronchocle or Derby-neck: it is an enlargement of the glands of the throat, and is a degree of the same disease that is known in the Alps, and in some other mountainous tracts.

SOIL.

## SOIL.

The most common soil in Derbyshire is a reddish clay or marl. The southern part of this county is in general composed of it, with little or no stone beneath the surface. This soil also appears on the north-west side of the county. Its quality is very various in different situations, in some containing much calcareous earth, in others not at all effervescing with acids. Its colouring principle is iron. That large tract of country which produces coal, is covered with a clay of various colours, black, grey, brown, and yellow; especially the last. It is in some places mixed with a large proportion of sand. This kind of soil is also found in some parts where grit-stone is met with; but there it is frequently of a black colour and bituminous quality. On the east moor, and in the northern extremity of the county, are large tracts of land consisting of this soil. That in the lime-stone country on the north-east side is of a brown colour and looser texture. Small tracts of gravel or sand are interspersed through the marl district. In the north part of the county are peat bogs, some upon the highest mountains, in which trees have been found nearly perfect. The soil in the vallies near the banks of the larger rivers is very different from that of the adjacent parts, and has been evidently altered by the depositions from inundations.

## PRODUCE.

The southern parts of this country are nearly equally divided between pasture and tillage. The banks of the Dove are chiefly occupied by dairy farms. On the eastern side of the county, tillage chiefly prevails. The midland tracts have a mixture of pasture and arable according to the soil and situation, and large improvements are carrying on upon the  
moors

moors of this district. In the High Peak the ground is chiefly devoted to the raising and feeding of cattle, very little corn besides black oats being grown. On the whole, Derbyshire is more of a grazing and dairying than a corn country. The grain principally cultivated is barley, of which much is grown for the supply of the breweries at Burton. Of the whole produce, calculated at 5000 quarters annually, about half is supposed to be exported to the neighbouring counties, some in the state of malt. The produce of wheat is scarcely equal to the consumption; that of beans and oats about answers the home demand. Of cheese, nearly 2000 tons are thought to be annually exported to London and several sea-ports on the east coast. Its quality is mild, and its taste resembles the Gloucestershire.

An uncommon species of culture, in which about 200 acres of this county are employed, is that of *camomile*. A loamy soil is chosen for the purpose, in which, after proper preparation, slips from the roots of an old plantation are set about the end of March. The collection of the flowers begins in September, and continues in succession till stopped by the frosts. The plants usually stand three years, of which the first affords the smallest, the second the best and largest produce. A dry year is most favourable to them. When the flowers are gathered, they are carefully dried in a kiln or on a heated floor, packed in bags, and sold to persons in the neighbourhood, who send most of them to the druggists in London. The produce and price are subject to great variation; but on an average the former may be reckoned at four cwt. an acre, the latter at four pounds per cwt.

The horses of Derbyshire are of very different breeds in the southern and northern parts. In the former they are of the strong and heavy kind;

kind; but in the latter, light and slender. They are much employed in the Peak for carrying lime-stone on their backs, and show great agility in ascending and descending the steep mountains.

The neat cattle are almost universally horned, and rather large and handsome. The cows are distinguished for their beautiful shapes, and have the property of becoming fat in a short time. Their yield of milk is but moderate. Notwithstanding the numbers bred here, many are brought every year from Yorkshire and Lancashire, and sold to the Derbyshire graziers.

The sheep on the Leicestershire border resemble those of that county in weight and size. They diminish on proceeding northwards; and in the High Peak weigh from 14 to 17 pounds per quarter, those on grit-stone land being three pounds lighter than those on lime-stone. But the difference in their fleeces is more remarkable, those of the grit-stone sheep being much lighter and thinner than of the others. There are now few or no goats kept in Derbyshire, though once they were common. Other animals, tame and wild, offer nothing remarkable.

### SUBTERRANEAN GEOGRAPHY.

This may in general be considered as dividing the county into the three distinctions of lime-stone, coal, and grit-stone land.

*Lime-stone.*—The most extensive tract of this land is situated on the north-west side of the county. Its northern extremity is at Castleton: its western line runs along the west side of Peak Forest to Buxton, thence, keeping along the east side of Ax-edge, it proceeds to the head of the Dove, and follows the boundary of the counties about 12 miles,

and crossing the river, extends a few miles into Staffordshire. The most southern point in which it appears in Derbyshire is about two miles north of Ashborne. Hence, its limit runs eastward in a line by Wirksworth as far as Matlock: its course then points northward, extending on the east side of Winster, Bakewell, Stony-Middleton, and Bradwell, to its termination in the valley of Edale. Besides this large tract of lime-stone, there is a smaller one on the east side of the county, forming the ridge already mentioned from near Hardwick, through Bolsover and Barlborough to the border of the county. This lime-stone tract spreads eastwards into Nottinghamshire, and northwards, quite through Yorkshire, with little interruption, as far as Tinmouth-castle in Northumberland. There are likewise several detached beds of lime-stone in other parts of Derbyshire, but none exceeding two miles in length or breadth.

*Coal.*—The principal coal country begins a little north-east of Derby, at Stanton, Dale, and Morley. It runs on the west side of Morley and Belper, and appears again at Lea, Ashover parish, Dronfield parish, and so to the Yorkshire border. This tract of coal is said to extend, under the name of the *great northern rake*, quite to the border of Scotland, being only interrupted by a lime-stone bed of three miles in breadth near Ferrybridge in Yorkshire. Coal has also been found at Chinley hills near Chapel-le-frith, in the neighbourhood of Buxton, and at various places in the southern extremity of the county.

*Grit-stone.*—This occupies a much greater extent than the two former divisions, particularly the north and north-west extremity of the county, and the tract lying between the principal beds of coal and lime-stone, of which district the east moor forms the most considerable part.

This

This last extends, with various breadth, almost as far south as Derby. Small beds of grit-stone appear also in a few other parts.

*Gypsum* or *Plaster-stone*.—This substance, which is found in nearly a strait line across the kingdom, appears in Derbyshire at several places, particularly at Chellaston, Aston, and Elvaston, three contiguous parishes, about five miles south-east of Derby. It lies about eight yards beneath the surface, and is found, not in regular layers, but in large lumps or blocks indented together, but which may be easily separated. The thickness of the beds is from two to four yards.

It has been already observed, that a considerable tract in the southern part contains no beds of stone of whatever kind near the surface. If a line be drawn from Ashborne through Derby to the Nottinghamshire border, it will have such a tract to the south, with the exception of a few places mentioned above.

### CAVERNS AND SUBTERRANEAN PASSAGES.

The strata of different kinds of stone, or *measures* as they are here termed, differ in respect to arrangement, thickness, and inclination, in the several parts of the mountainous tracts of Derbyshire. It often happens that these measures are broken, in consequence of which clefts and chasms are formed in the earth. These are extremely various in figure and size, and are more frequent in some parts than in others. The most remarkable which has been discovered in the clefts of the lime-stone, is situated at Castleton, and known by the name of

*Peak's-hole*.—It is situated in a deep and narrow recess of the valley in which the town stands. On each side and near the end of this re-

cess, two large faces of rock are seen rising to a great height. At the foot of the rock the mouth of the cavern opens: it is about 14 yards high and 40 wide; the arch at the entrance is regularly formed, and extends nearly 300 feet in a direct line: this part is tolerably light, and is inhabited by a number of poor people who manufacture pack-thread. They have built small dwellings in this spacious vault, where they are sheltered from the extremes both of heat and cold. Beyond the first turning the ground gently declines, and the path is made wet by droppings from the roof. At the distance of 130 yards from the entrance, all further progress was formerly stopped by a projection of the rock, but a passage is now opened through it. The cavern, which has been gradually contracting, appears about 20 yards from hence to be entirely closed; but on a near approach, a low passage under the rock, almost full of water, is discovered. The opening just admits a small boat, but the passenger must lie almost flat while it is pushed under the rock. On landing, he finds himself in a cavern more spacious than the former, said to be 70 yards wide, and 40 high, but totally dark. A path on its right side leads up a steep ascent to the top of a rock; another declines and leads to a much lower and narrower part. The whole length of the subterranean passage is said to be 750 yards, and attempts have been made by blasting the rock to extend it further in order to communicate with another cavern, but without success. A stream of water runs through the whole length, which must be crossed several times, and after heavy rains is so much swelled as to cut off access to the further parts.

*Poole's-hole* is a cavern formed in the lime-stone, and situated a short distance from Buxton. Its entrance is low and narrow, requiring a person to stoop considerably. After proceeding 20 or 30 yards  
in



in this posture, you open into a spacious and lofty cavern, the roof and sides of which are covered with stalactitical incrustations, called here *water-icle*. Large piles and masses of the same substance appear on the floor, which are continually receiving increase from the droppings of water loaded with calcareous matter, and put on various singular figures. The cavern, after contracting at a large water-icle called the fitch of bacon, enlarges again, and continues of the same dimensions till you come to Mary queen of Scots' pillar, which is a large column of stalactite. It is not easy to go farther. The path has hitherto lain along the side and some height from the bottom of the cavern. On descending to examine the interior extremity, the bottom is at first tolerably even, but after 20 yards it rises with a perpendicular ascent to the height of 80 yards. On returning by the bottom, you pass under the queen of Scots' pillar, and view various other incrustations, some of extraordinary size and form. The whole length of the cavity is said to be 560 yards.

*Elden-hole*, situated in Peak-forest, is also a cleft in a lime-stone measure. Its entrance is perpendicular. It is a deep chasm extending lengthwise in the direction of north-west and south-east. Near the surface it is about 10 yards wide and 30 long; but it gradually contracts, and at the depth of 90 feet is very much confined. At this place is a projection of the rock, and behind it a small cave admitting the light. Miners and other persons have descended much below this, and found various other chinks and caverns lined with stalactite. At a vast depth water has been found, and there is some reason to believe that this is part of a subterraneous river which appears in the mouth of the cavern at Castleton. All the ground between Perry-foot and Castleton abounds in clefts and caverns, a series of which reaches from the neighbourhood

of Peak's-hole nearly to Elden-hole. These have been discovered by miners in sinking their shafts, and pursued under ground to a great extent.

There are other subterraneous caverns and passages near Eyam, particularly Charlesworth and Bamforth-hole. The latter is a series of stalactitical caverns of considerable extent.

### MINES AND MINERALS.

*Lead.*—Lead mines in Derbyshire are of great antiquity, undoubted proof existing that they were worked in the time of the Romans. They may be traced from the Saxon and Norman eras down through successive periods to the present time. The extent to which the business has been carried on at different periods cannot with certainty be determined; but the produce of the mines during the last century has undoubtedly been very considerable. At present, lead ore is found in various parts of the country. Indeed, it has been discovered in different quantity throughout all the tract of lime-stone land; but it is met with in the greatest abundance about ten miles to the north and south of the river Wye.

Veins of lead ore, on account of their position in the earth, are distinguished by the different names of *pipe*, *rake*, and *flat* works. A pipe-work lies between two measures of lime-stone regularly extending above and below. It consists of several lines or branches running nearly parallel to each other, which have a general communication by means of slender threads, or leadings, as they are called by the miners. The rock is sometimes pierced through by these leadings, which it is thought right to follow, as they often conduct to a fresh range. Should no ore be

found on such a pursuit, the breadth of the work is ascertained: its length is indeterminate, depending much upon the dipping of the measures. If this be great, it begins to decline, or cannot be pursued further on account of water. The rake-vein is found in the chasms or clefts of the lime-stone, and consequently breaks through the measures and sinks into the earth. It sometimes penetrates 150 or 200 yards, generally in a slanting direction; and it has been followed to the distance of four miles from the place where it was first discovered. The flat-work resembles the pipe, but has no leader or stem like that. It spreads wider, and seldom extends above 100 yards. It is also found near the surface and in the solid rock, and is very weak and poor, being seldom thicker than a man's finger.

The veins of lead ore are generally enclosed in a yellow, red, or black soil, and are firmly connected with calc, spar, or some other mineral. Their direction is not uniform. The pipes, never penetrating the measures, follow the dip of the country in which they are found. The rakes run still more variously; in the High Peak, generally pointing east and west; in the wapentake of Wirksworth, north and south. Sometimes two veins cut each other at right angles: sometimes the pipe and rake unite and run together a short way, becoming stronger and richer. It is difficult to determine which of these two veins is most common, or most productive; the pipe, however, seem most generally valuable.

Veins are discovered various ways; sometimes by attention to the nature of the ground, which leads the experienced miner to make a search by boring; often by accidents laying open some branch which rises to-day. The more the branches which accompany a vein, the  
richer

richer it is, and when they begin to diminish, it becomes poorer. Also, for the most part, a vein is impoverished when it runs in such a direction as to receive over it a greater number of measures. In working mines, a principal point is to free them from water ; the most common and effectual method of doing which is to drive a fough or level from the bottom of some neighbouring valley, as far as the works ; where this cannot be done, pumps must be employed, which are either worked by a water wheel, or by a fire engine. Mines are freed from bad air by the introduction of a pipe down the shaft to the work, whence it is extended along the roof of the gallery. The circulation this occasions proves an effectual remedy.

There are numerous and various regulations respecting the rights of miners, and the dues payable for the ore, in different parts of the mining country. The principal tract containing lead is called the *King's-field*. Under this denomination nearly the whole wapentake of Wirksworth is comprized, as well as part of the High Peak. The mineral duties of the King's-field have been from time immemorial let on lease. The present farmer of those in the High Peak is the duke of Devonshire ; and of those in the wapentake of Wirksworth is Mrs. Rolles. They have each a steward and bar-masters in the districts they hold of the crown. The steward presides as judge in the Barmote courts, and with twenty-four jurymen determines all disputes respecting the working of mines. The courts are held twice a year ; those of the High Peak at Money-ash, and those of the wapentake at Wirksworth. The principal office of the bar-master is putting miners in possession of the veins they have discovered, and collecting the proportion of ore due to the lessee. When a miner has found a new vein of ore in the King's-field, provided it be not in an orchard, garden, or high-road, he may obtain

an exclusive title to it on application to the bar-master. The method of giving possession is, in the presence of two jurymen, marking out in a pipe or rake work two *meares* of ground, each containing 29 yards; and in a flat work 14 yards square. But if a miner neglect to avail himself of his discovery beyond a limited time, he may be deprived of the vein of which he has received possession, and the bar-master may dispose of it to another adventurer. As to the other part of the bar-master's office, that of superintending the measurement of the ore, and taking the dues of the lessee or lord of the manor, it is attended with some difficulty from the variety of the claims, which differ greatly in different places. In general, a thirteenth of the ore is the due in the King's-field, but a twenty-fifth only is taken. Besides this, there is a due for tithe. In mines that are private property, such tolls are paid as the parties agree upon.

The miner having satisfied the several claims, proceeds to dispose of his ore to the merchant or smelter. There are four denominations of ore; the largest and best sort is called *Bing*; the next in size and almost equal in quality is named *Pesey*; the third is *Smitham*, which passes through the sieve in washing; the fourth, which is caught by a very slow stream of water, and is as fine as flour, is stiled *Belland*: it is inferior to all the rest on account of the admixture of foreign particles. All the ore as it comes from the mine is beaten into pieces and washed before it is sold. This business is performed by women, who can earn about 6d. per day.

Smelting furnaces are of two kinds, the hearth and cupola. The hearth consists of large rough stones placed so as to form an oblong cavity about two feet wide and deep, and 14 long, into which fuel and  
ore

ore are put in alternate layers; the heat is raised by means of a large pair of bellows worked by a water wheel. The fuel is wood and coal. The lead procured this way is very soft, pure, and ductile, but a considerable quantity of metal remains in the slags. These are, therefore, smelted over again with a more intense fire of coke; but the metal produced is inferior in quality to the former. At present, a small proportion of ore is smelted this way, only two hearth furnaces remaining in Derbyshire. The cupola, introduced about fifty years since, is of an oblong form, resembling a long, but not very deep, chest, the top and bottom of which are a little concave. The fire being placed at one end, and a chimney at the other, the flame is drawn over the ore placed at the bottom, and by its reverberation smelts it without any contact of the fuel.

The lead when smelted is poured into moulds of various sizes, according to the different markets for which it is intended, Hull, Bawtry, or London. Two of the blocks make a pig. Some of it, however, is first rolled into sheets at works erected for the purpose near the furnaces. A considerable quantity is also converted into red-lead. This process is performed in a kind of oven, the floor of which is divided into three parts. The middle of these contains the metal, and the two others, the fire. The flame being reverberated on the metal, converts it to a calx or powder; which, on being a second time exposed to the action of the fire, acquires a red colour.

Attempts were made some years ago to extract silver from the lead; but no such work now exists in Derbyshire. The sulphur driven off from the ore in smelting is collected at two furnaces.

The annual produce of lead from the Derbyshire mines is not exactly ascertained, but may be estimated at an average of between 5 and 6000 tons. It is generally thought to be on the decline, some of the richest mines being either exhausted, or become more difficult to work; but on the other hand, from the improvements in the art of smelting, and the more effectual methods employed to clear the mines of water by new levels and improved fire engines, advantages have been gained that may, perhaps, supply the deficiency.

*Iron.*—The ore of this metal occurs throughout all that tract in which coal has been discovered, Chinley-hills excepted. The depth at which it lies from the surface is extremely various. Frequently, from the great dipping of the measures, it baffleth out to-day. In this case, a hole is made like the shaft of a coal-pit. This is gradually enlarged on going deeper, so as to assume the form of a bell. It is seldom sunk lower than 18 yards; after which fresh ground is broken and a new pit sunk: by this means the lower beds are mixed with the soil near the surface, so as to injure the land greatly; whence it is not thought worth while to dig for iron ore unless the beds are very valuable. Their thickness varies from two to 12 inches. The most valuable beds which have yet been discovered are in Morley-park near Heage, at Wingerworth, Chesterfield, and Stavely. At all these places furnaces are built; these are of a circular or conical form, having the fire with a blast at the bottom. When the furnace is prepared and duly seasoned, the process of smelting begins. Fuel, ore, and flux, in alternate layers, are continually put in day and night, and the fire is not suffered to go out till the furnace wants repair, which is frequently a period of some years. The fuel is generally coke, though charcoal has been used. Lime-stone is the universal flux. The ore undergoes the previous preparation of

being burned in the open air in beds, first with coke, then with coal slack ; it is then brokeu into small pieces and screened. The process of smelting takes different times according to the size of the furnace and other circumstances. Different sorts of iron are produced by varying the proportions of ore, flux, and fuel. The metal first obtained is brittle and void of due malleability. To give it this property it is carried to the forge, and wrought into bars. The quantity of iron produced in this county amounts to about 5600 tons.

*Calamine*.—The value of this mineral, which is an ore of zinc, has but lately been attended to in this county. The chief places in which it is discovered, are Castleton, Cromford, Bonfall, and Wirksworth. It occurs at various depths, but is generally found near a vein of lead ore. The two minerals are sometimes mixed, or run a considerable way by the side of each other ; but more commonly, one ceases where the other begins, and a good vein of both is never found in the same place. Calamine generally lies in a bed of yellow or reddish brown clay. The beds resemble pipe works, and consist of lumps of various sizes and shapes : their direction is the same with the dip of the measures.

The calamine is first washed in a current, and then again in sieves in a vessel of water, and all the foreign matters, as spar, cauk, and lead ore are picked out from it. It is next calcined in a reverberatory furnace, after which it is again picked, ground to a fine powder, and washed. The quantity of calamine at present annually produced in Derbyshire is about 500 tons. Its value in its crude state is from 35 to 40 shillings per ton ; in its prepared state, five or six guineas. It is inferior in value to the calamine of Mendip in Somersetshire. Blend or  
black



black jack, also got in Derbyshire, is another ore of zinc, less valuable than calamine.

*Copper.*—This metal has hitherto been found only in small quantity in Derbyshire. Considerable pieces detached from any vein are frequently met with at Matlock and Bonfall. A slender vein of ore was discovered some years since at Great Roch Dale, between Tideswell and Buxton; and another lately near Chapel-le-frith; but neither is worked.

*Coal Mines.*—The tract of country producing coal has already been mentioned. It is got in great abundance in Derbyshire. Coal is met with at various depths, and in some places several beds are passed by one shaft, but the upper ones are thin and soft, and seldom worked. Besides the home consumption of coal, which is very great, a considerable quantity is conveyed by the Errewath canal into Leicestershire, and by the Chesterfield, into Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. Large quantities also go to Sheffield from Dronfield parish.

*Plaster-stone.*—The most valuable kind of this substance was got at Elvaſton, but the pits are now closed. That of Chellaſton, though neither of a fine colour nor texture, is equally useful for common purposes. About 800 tons are got annually from these pits, of which 500 are sent by the canal into Staffordshire to the potteries, where it is used for the formation of moulds. A considerable quantity is also used for laying floors in buildings. For both these purposes a previous calcination is necessary, after which the addition of water makes it set firm and solid. In its native state, this substance is called gypsum and alabaſter, and when wrought, takes a high polish, and is used for ornamental works. The calcined gypsum is used for all the purposes of

plaster of Paris, and is sometimes mixed with lime in making the finer kinds of mortar.

*Lime-stone.*—The extent of country which yields this stone has been already mentioned. Its qualities are various. At Buxton, Peak-forest, and Stony-Middleton, it is of a light grey, and when burned is much used in agriculture. For this purpose much is disposed of in the northern part of the county, and also in Cheshire and Lancashire. At Crich are several kilns, which burn a lime remarkably white, and much valued for ceilings and other ornamental purposes. This lime-stone is free from metallic particles, and forms a manure for cold lands, which is reckoned to bring the crops a fortnight forwarder than that which is darker-coloured. At Ticknal and Kniveton the lime-stone is very dark, and sets very strongly. That of the latter place is thought nearly equally to the lime of Barrow in Leicestershire. At Hopton is a kind of a light colour, hard, and abounding with small fragments of entrochi. It is much used for hearths, chimney-pieces, floors, and stair-cases. On Brassington moor a species of a similar nature, but superior quality, has been discovered.

*Marble* is found in various parts of the High and Low Peak: it is either black or mottled grey. The black abounds chiefly at Ashford; it may be had in large blocks, and is in general very black, close, solid, and capable of a high polish. The mottled grey is found in many places, but particularly near Money-ash. It has a great diversity of shades, but may be distinguished into two kinds; that with a lightish grey ground, and that with a light blueish ground. The latter is rendered very beautiful by the purple veins that spread over its surface. But the chief ornament of the grey marble is the vast quantity of entrochi

trochi that it contains, the transverse and longitudinal sections producing an incredible variety of forms. In general, the more superficial the beds of marble, the lighter its colour, and the more abundant the entrochi.

*Water-icle* or *Stalactite* is very common in the Peak, and of a great variety of colours. They are polished and used for making ornaments of various figures; as are likewise the *transparent calcareous spars*, of the rhombic kind.

*Porcelain Clay*, of a delicate white and very fine texture, has been got from a lead mine near Braffington. What is now dug, is sent to the Staffordshire potteries. *Pipe-clay* is got at Bolsover, where pipes are made with it, and both it and potter's clay are found in various other parts. *Rotten-stone* is met with near Bakewell, and is much used by the lapidaries of Derby.

*Slate* of a grey colour is got in Chinley-hills, and at Hayfield, and is much used for covering houses in that neighbourhood.

*Chert* is found in strata, and may be seen running through the rocks in the Peak. A large quantity of it is carried from the neighbourhood of Bakewell into Staffordshire and Yorkshire, where it is used in the manufacture of earthen ware. Some kinds of it are made into mill-stones.

*Moor-stone* is found in the north-west part of the county, and the east moor. Mill-stones are made of it on Kinder-scout, and in the parish  
of

of Eyam. *Free-stone* is found in various places, and some of the finest houses in Derbyshire have been built with it.

A species of *pyrites* got near Dronfield is used for the production of copperas, but in no great quantity.

*Black wad*.—This earth, which on analysis is found to be chiefly composed of iron and manganese, is met with principally at Elton near Winster. After calcination it is used as an oil colour in house and ship painting. It is chiefly employed for the latter purpose, and there is a considerable demand for it in the royal navy.

*Medicinal Waters*.—Derbyshire abounds beyond most counties with mineral and medicinal waters; they are of various kinds, warm, cold, saline, calcareous, fulphureous, and chalybeate. Some of the most noted, which come within the limits of this work, will be particularized hereafter.

### CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISION.

In the Roman times, Derbyshire formed part of the country of the Coritani; in the Saxon, part of the kingdom of Mercia. It is divided into six hundreds; the names of which are,

*High Peak hundred*, in the north-west.

*Scarsdale hundred*, in the north-east.

*Wirksworth wapentake*, in the west.

*Appletree hundred*, in the west.

*Morleston hundred*, in the east.

*Repington hundred*, in the south.

These are said to contain 11 market towns, and about 440 hamlets.

The number of inhabitants in the year 1788, from the most accurate inquiry that could be made, was 124,465; of houses, 25,642. An estimate made in the late reign reckons the inhabitants at 126,900, but there are good grounds for suspecting its accuracy, as population seems in most parts to have been increasing. Derbyshire pays six parts of the land-tax, and provides 560 men to the national militia.

Some remains of the ancient civil policy of the county still appear, the court of the duchy of Lancaster, and the Peverel court, being of this kind. The honor of Tutbury and the hundred of Appletree belong to the former; and courts are regularly held, called three weeks courts, for the honor, at Tutbury, and for the hundred, at Sudbury. The Peverel courts are held at Basford near Nottingham. A considerable number of townships belong to each of these. The courts of High Peak and the wapentake of Wirksworth have already been mentioned, as regulating the mineral concerns of those parts. With respect to its common judicature, Derbyshire is included in the midland circuit.

Derby, the capital, is the only parliamentary borough in the county. It sends two members to parliament, and the county two more.

In its ecclesiastical concerns, it forms a part of the diocese of Litchfield and Coventry, and is divided into one archdeaconry, and five deanries, which are the following:

#### ARCHDEACONRY OF DERBY.

*Deanry of Ashborne.*

—— of Castillar.

—— of Chesterfield.

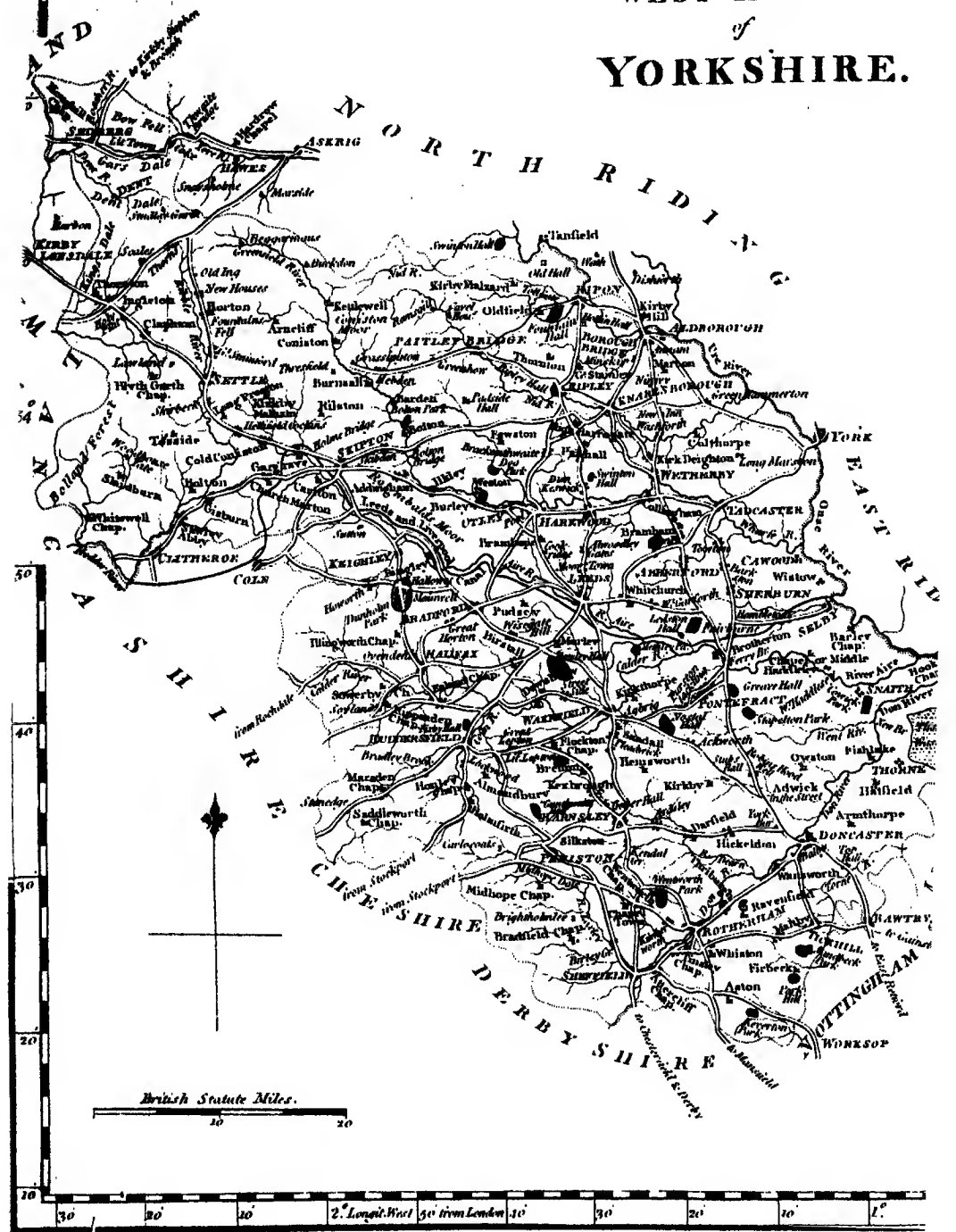
*Deanry*

*Deanry of Derby.**—— of Repington.*

Its parochial churches, from the best inquiry, amount to 116; its chapels, of which two are extra-parochial, to 71. There are 39 meeting-houses of different denominations of Dissenters.



# WEST RIDING of YORKSHIRE.





#### IV.—*General Account of the* WEST-RIDING *of* YORKSHIRE.

THE great county of York is divided into three districts called *Ridings*, the East, West, and North, of which the two latter have each the magnitude of a large county. A considerable part of the West-Riding coming within the limits of the present undertaking, it has been thought proper to prefix to the account of the particular places, a general description of the district itself.

The *West-Riding of Yorkshire* is bounded to the north by the North-Riding, the river Ure making part of the division ; to the east, by the Ainsty Liberty, and by the East-Riding, the rivers Wharfe and Ouse being the limits, and also by the counties of Lincoln and Nottingham ; to the south, by Derbyshire and Cheshire ; to the west, by Lancashire and Westmoreland. Its length, if measured from north-west to south-east, exceeds 90 miles, upon an average breadth of about 40. It is computed to contain 2450 square miles, or 1,568,000 statute acres.

#### R I V E R S.

A number of rivers take their course through it, the principal of which terminate in the Ouse.

The *Nidd*, rising in Nidderdale or Netherdale forest, passes Paitley-bridge, Ripley, and Knaresborough, and joins the Ouse a few miles above York.

The *Wharfe* takes its rise in Langsterdale Chace, and passing by Otley, Harewood, Wetherby, and Tadcaster, empties into the Ouse near Cawood.

The *Aire* deriving its sources from about Malham moor, flows near Skipton and Keighley; thence to Leeds, below which it is joined by the *Calder*, and they pass on together by Ferry-bridge and Snaith, to the Ouse near Howden.

The *Calder* rises in the hills on the Lancashire border, west of Halifax, and after receiving the *Coln* from Huddersfield, flows by Wakefield to its junction with the *Aire*.

The *Don* or *Dun* rises near the Cheshire border west of Peniston, which place it passes, and being augmented by many small streams from the Derbyshire border, flows to Sheffield, where it receives the *Sheaf*. These together run by Rotherham and Doncaster to meet the Ouse a little above its opening into the Humber.

The *Ribble* coming down by Settle, and joined by the *Hodder* from Bolland forest, takes its course westward into Lancashire.

These numerous rivers bestow beauty and fertility on the vales through which they flow, and afford, along with the navigable canals,  
the

the advantage of water carriage to the busy manufacturing towns on their banks.

## FACE OF THE COUNTRY.

The face of the country is in many parts strongly irregular. In the western and northern divisions a considerable portion is hilly and mountainous, but intersected with numerous vales rich in the finest grass.

The hills of *Ingleborough*, *Wharfedale*, and *Penigent*, to the north and north-west of Settle, rank among the highest mountains of South-Britain. In their neighbourhood are various caverns and other natural curiosities belonging to a mountainous country. One of the most noted of these is *Malham-cove*, a kind of amphitheatre of smooth perpendicular lime-stone, 288 feet high in the centre from its summit to its base. On the top of the moor on which the cove is situated is an elevated lake called *Malham-tarn*, of clear and very cold water, abounding in trout. It discharges itself by a subterraneous passage into the river Aire, of which it forms the head. *Gordale-scar* in its neighbourhood forms a deep and romantic bed for the river, through which it rolls in a grand cascade, over-hung by rugged rocks above 100 feet high, projecting above their bases till they almost meet at top. Near *Chapel-in-the-dale*, on the north side of Ingleborough, are other remarkable pits or caverns, containing within them pools of water and cascades, giving birth to subterraneous streams which at length burst out to day. The river Ribble near its origin in these parts tumbles into a deep cavern, and is lost in the bowels of the mountains for three miles, when it emerges and makes its way to Settle. Many other romantic scenes are met with in this part of the district, which is a favourite spot for botanists on account of the number of rare and curious plants it contains.

*The greater part of the Riding, however, is a flat country, with no other elevations than such as serve to vary the prospect. Towards the border of Lincolnshire, and the lower part of the Ouse, are large tracts of marsh, which have been drained by canals and dykes, first made in the reign of Charles I. Hatfield moor or chace, and Thorne waste, contain the principal part of these lands.*

The whole cultivated part of the Riding is almost completely enclosed with stone dikes and hedges, kept in excellent order; and there are few open fields, except where the land is common or waste.

### S O I L.

The nature of the soil in this extensive tract differs greatly. There are all kinds, from deep strong clay, and rich fertile loam, to the poorest peat earth, and it is not ascertained which sort prevails most. Much ground, originally barren, has been rendered productive by vicinity to great towns, and superior culture. In general, it may be said that a large proportion is of a quality favourable to the purposes of husbandry. By a calculation made, it, however, appears, that the waste lands in this Riding amount to 405,272 acres, of which it is computed that 265,000 are capable of cultivation, or of being turned into pasture, while the rest are incapable of improvement, except by planting.

### C L I M A T E.

The climate is, in general, moderate. The mountainous parts in the west are colder and more subject to rain than the others. The most eastern parts are somewhat damp and subject to fogs from their low situation near the great rivers, and they are less healthy.

## A G R I C U L T U R E.

The husbandry of the West-Riding is very different in different parts; in general, it may be distributed into the following systems. 1st. The pasture lands, where grass is the chief object, and cultivation by the plough is only a secondary concern. The parts of the Riding in which this system prevails are, at least, one-third of the whole. From Ripley to the western extremity almost all the good land is in grass, and corn is raised only upon the inferior soils, and in so small a quantity, that a stack of corn is a rare object. Upon the higher grounds in these parts are immense tracts of waste, which are generally common among the adjacent possessors, and are pastured by them with cattle and sheep. Some of them are stinted pastures, but the greater part are under no limitation, and in consequence, the ground is exhausted and the stock poor.

2dly. The lands adjoining the manufacturing towns. The greatest part of these are occupied by persons who do not follow farming as a business, but regard it only as a matter of convenience. The manufacturer has his enclosures, in which he keeps milch cows for the support of his family, and horses for the conveyance of his goods. Much ground under these circumstances is not kept under the plough, yet more corn comparatively is raised than in the division before described.

3dly. The parts in which tillage is principally attended to, and grass is considered only in connexion with the best corn-husbandry. If a line be run from Ripley southward by Leeds, Wakefield, and Barnsley, to Rotherham, the greatest part eastwards of it, to the banks of  
the

the Ouse, is employed in raising corn. About Boroughbridge, Weatherby, and Selby, one half of the fields is under the plough; further south, about Pontefract, Barnsley, and Rotherham, two-thirds; and to the eastward of Doncaster, to Thorn and Snaith, three-fourths. There is not much waste in this division, and what there is appears capable of great improvement.

4thly. The common fields. These are scattered over the whole of the last division, but are most numerous in the country to the eastward of the great north road, from Doncaster to Boroughbridge. In all these there is room for much substantial improvement by better modes of culture.

5thly. The moors. These, besides the large tracts in the first division, mostly lie in the south-west parts of the Riding, above Penistone and Sheffield. Upon them sheep are chiefly bred, which are sold to the graziers in the lower parts. A great part of them is common.

### STATE OF PROPERTY.

A considerable part of the landed property of the West-Riding is in the hands of small freeholders and copyholders; but there are likewise a great number of extensive proprietors. Few of the latter reside upon their estates, at least for a considerable part of the year, and the management of them is chiefly committed to stewards and factors. The greater part of the farms are comparatively small; many on the arable lands under 50 acres, and none above 300; and they are still smaller in the grass division. Most of the land is set without lease, or the occupiers are removeable at six months warning—a practice very discouraging

ging to improvements in agriculture. Some of the proprietors who are sensible of this, grant leases from three to twenty-one years.

### MANURES.

Besides those in common use in other parts, the farmers employ ground bones, horn shavings, and rape dust.

### PRODUCTS.

The corn raised is of all kinds according to the soil; but the whole quantity grown in the West-Riding is much short of the consumption. Towards the banks of the Ouse a good deal of flax is grown. The turnip husbandry prevails over a great part of the Riding, but the mode of cultivation would admit of improvement. The artificial grasses are laid down with red and white clover, sain-foin, and hay seeds. Winter tares are sown in many parts. Pontefract has long been famous for the culture of liquorice. A great deal of oak and ash wood is grown in the Riding, which meets with a ready sale at the towns.

Not many horses are bred except in the eastern parts. Those in the western are generally small, but hardy, and capable of undergoing great fatigue. Of neat cattle there are four different breeds. 1. The short-horned kind, which principally prevail on the east side of the Riding, and are distinguished by the name of the Durham, Holdernesse, or Dutch breed. 2. The long-horned or Craven breed, either bred and fed in the western parts, or brought from the neighbouring part of Lancashire. These are a hardy kind, and fit to endure the vicissitudes of a wet climate. 3. A cross between the two former breeds, which makes the best kind of all. A great number of milch cows of this

1

kind

kind are kept about Nidderdale, and are both useful and handsome. 4. Scotch cattle, which are brought in great numbers into the county to be fed, and produce the best beef in the markets. The graziers in Craven are very large dealers in this branch of business.

Of sheep there are a great many kinds both bred and fed; but that which appears to have been the native breed is met with upon the moors in the western part of the Riding, and is usually called the Penistone breed, from the name of the market town where they are sold. They are horned, light in the fore-quarter, and well adapted for seeking their living in a hilly country. When fat, they weigh from 14lb. to 15lb. per quarter. They are a hardy kind of sheep, and when brought down to the lower pastures fatten kindly, and prove excellent mutton. Wool of all sorts meets with a ready sale in consequence of the manufactures of the county.

### MINERALS.

Coals are cheap and plentiful throughout most parts of the Riding, an advantage inestimable to a manufacturing district. Stone for building and various other purposes is every where at hand in the hilly parts.

There are several *mineral waters* in this Riding, of which the most noted is the sulphureous water of Harrowgate, much resorted to in cutaneous and cachectical complaints, and used both for drinking and bathing. There is also a chalybeate spring at the same place, and another at Thorpe Arch in considerable repute. At Knaresborough is a noted petrifying spring called the dropping well; and near Settle is one of the most remarkable ebbing and flowing wells in the kingdom.



## CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISION.

The West-Riding of Yorkshire is for the most part divided into Wapentakes, but also contains some detached districts. The names of the divisions are as follows :

Agbrigg Wapentake,	Skyrack Wapentake,	Liberty of Cawood,
Barkston Ash ditto,	Staincliffe ditto,	Wistow, and Ottley,
Claro ditto,	Staincross ditto,	Liberty of Rippon,
Ewcross ditto,	Strafforth and Tickhill	Doncaster Soke,
Morley ditto,	ditto,	Leeds Borough.
Osgoldness ditto,		

Within these limits are contained twenty-nine market-towns, and five parliamentary boroughs.

Ecclesiastically, this Riding is within the province and diocese of York, and forms an archdeaconry, called the

## ARCHDEACONRY OF YORK, OR WEST-RIDING,

divided into the following deanries :

Craven,

Doncaster,

Pontefract,

City of York and Ainsty, (not in this Riding.)

Rippon, within the Archdeaconry of Cleveland, is a peculiar jurisdiction.

## V.—*General Account of the* NORTHERN PART OF STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE northern portion of the county of Stafford forms a broad angle, of which the eastern side joins to Derbyshire, and the western to Cheshire. The greater part of it consists of a tract called the *Moorlands*, a region in general hilly, sterile, and open, composing the southern extremity of the mountainous ridge which divides the north of England. Its height is shown by the number of streams which take their rise in it, most of which flow southwards.

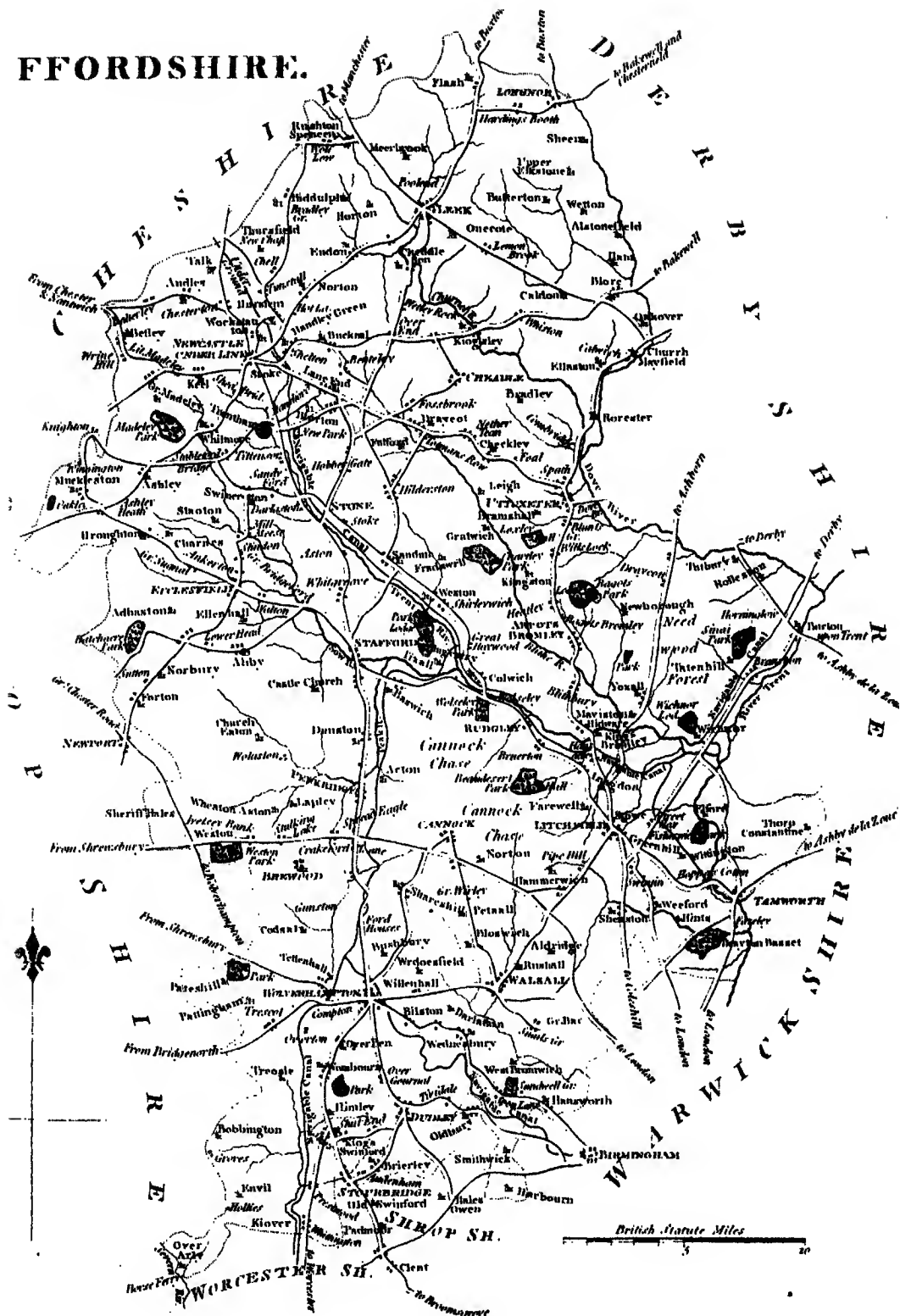
### R I V E R S.

The *Trent*, generally accounted the third river in England for length of course and quantity of water, rises near Biddulph towards the Cheshire border, out of New-pool, and two springs flowing from Molecop, many more little springs soon contributing to form it into a rivulet. It passes not far from Newcastle, and visits Trentham, where it distinguishes itself by its proper name. Its further course passes out of our circuit, through a great part of Staffordshire, the southern end of Derbyshire, almost the whole of Nottinghamshire, and terminates in the Humber.

The *Churnet*, formed by a conflux of two principal branches near Leek, themselves composed of many moorland streams, takes a southern course to join the Dove a little to the north of Uttoxeter.

Further

# FFORDSHIRE.





Further to the north-east, the two mountain rivulets, *Hamps* and *Manifold*, come down to the neighbourhood of Wetton, where, on an extensive and romantic common, they both sink into the earth, and rise again conjoined, three miles below, in Ilam gardens, and soon empty themselves into the Dove. This subterraneous transit is described by that celebrated poet Dr. Darwin, in a passage glowing with images of nature and fancy, from which we shall copy only the *natural* part :

Where *Hamps* and *Manifold*, their cliffs among,  
Each in his flinty channel winds along ;  
With lucid lines the dusky moor divides,  
Hurrying to intermix their sister tides.

\* \* \* \* \*

Three thousand steps in sparry clefts they stray,  
Or seek thro' sullen mines their gloomy way ;  
On beds of Lava sleep in coral cells,  
Or sigh o'er jasper fish and agate shells.  
Till where fam'd *Ilam* leads his boiling floods  
Thro' flowery meadows and impending woods,  
Pleas'd, with light spring they leave the dreary night,  
And 'mid circumfluent surges rise to light ;  
Shake their bright locks, the widening vale pursue,  
Their sea-green mantles fring'd with pearly dew ;  
In playful groups by towering *Thorpe* they move,  
Bound o'er the foaming weirs, and rush into the *Dove*.

*Bolan. Gard. Part II.*

The *Dove* rises near the northernmost point of the county, in the very bordering line of Derbyshire, and flowing south-eastwards, makes the limit of the two counties as far as its junction with the Trent below Burton. The channel of the Dove has a great declivity, and in many places tumbles over the rocks in cascades. Its water has a greyish cast,

owing to the particles of limestone it brings down with it, whereby, in its flood, it imparts great fertility to the meadows on its banks, so as to have given rise to the old proverb,

In April, Dove's flood  
Is worth a king's good.

After it has received the Churnet, this colour is almost washed away, and the meadows below are less distinguished for fertility.

All the above-mentioned rivers spring out of the Moorlands ; but one which has its source within our circuit, rises west of the Trent, near the Cheshire border : this is the *Sow*, the head of which is near Great Madeley, between Betley and Newcastle. It runs across the county by Stafford, and mixes with the Trent above Burton.

### FACE OF COUNTRY AND SOIL.

The northern part of Staffordshire exhibits a variety of country, but it is chiefly characterized as a hilly tract, with interjacent vales, and bleak extensive moors. Its general elevation above the southern parts of the county may be estimated at from 100 to 200 yards ; but it has some distinguished eminences of much more considerable height. The hill called *Bunser*, near Ilam, is calculated to rise 1200 feet above the level of the Trent ; and the *Wever* hills, and some of the other moorland peaks, 1500 feet. A pretty extensive part of the moorlands is upon a lime-stone bottom. This portion reaches in length from the Wever hills to Longnor, and in breadth from the Dove to the parallel of Morredge. In this, the quantity of lime-stone is inexhaustible, lying in many places in strata of immense thickness. The

*Wever*

*Wever* hills are vast heaps of this stone, and are covered with a rich calcareous, loamy earth, which bears a fine turf. They are enclosed in large tracts by stone walls, which are almost the only boundaries in this part of the county. The fall even from the foot of these hills to the Dove and Churnet is very great, and those rivers are very rapid. The hill of *Bunster* is also a calcareous rock, and vast precipices from it overhang the Dove. The ridge of this mountain terminates in some places in conical sugar-loaf peaks of bare lime-stone. *Mill-dale*, near Alstonfield on the Dove, is a long narrow glen of great depth, the sides of which consist of perpendicular lime-stone precipices, which nearly equal in height the breadth of the dale. The vale in which the Manifold runs is extremely romantic, and contains a curious excavation in the side of a precipice called *Thyrfis's Cavern*.

The country west of the lime-stone is generally sandy or gravelly clay, or grit-stone rock, and is the worst part of the moorlands. Its surface is uneven, and large tracts of waste land, though on elevated situations, are mere peat bogs or mosses. Large quantities of peat are cut upon *Morredge* and *Axedge*, which is spongy and retentive of moisture. The *Cloud Heath*, *High Forest*, *Leek Frith*, and *Mole Cop*, are similar pieces of ground. But the summits of some of the hills are rocky cliffs, particularly those called *Leek rocks* or *roches*, and *Ipstone cliffs*, which are composed of huge piles of rugged rocks, heaped upon each other in a tremendous manner. Leek rocks consist of a coarse sandy grit; those of Ipstones are gravel or sand, and small pebbles cemented together. Many of the cliffs overhang steep precipices; and large masses detached from them are scattered on the moors around. To the south of these, between Oak-moor and Cheadle, are Commons or wastes, consisting of an immense number of rude heaps of

gravel upon an under-stratum of soft sandy rock, thrown confusedly together into all sorts of fantastical forms.

Between Mole-cop and Newcastle the country does not merit the name of Moorlands, but is various in appearance, divided by quickset hedges and trees, and resembling other cultivated tracts. The soil is generally cold and stiff. Towards Betley the soil is a mixed gravelly loam, with an understratum of sand, gravel, marl, or grit. It produces fine timber trees, and is equally fit for pasture and arable. Between Betley and Newcastle is a good deal of light land. To the south of the road towards Eccleshall, is a stronger soil of friable clayey or marly loam, intermixed with peat and poor land on the eminences.

### CLIMATE.

The *climate* of the north of Staffordshire is cold and wet, like that of the adjacent parts of Derbyshire and Cheshire; snow lies long in the Moorlands, and the west wind seldom fails to bring rain.

### AGRICULTURE AND PRODUCTS.

The *Agriculture* of this district is not entitled to particular observation. The Moorlands are chiefly devoted to the feeding of sheep and cattle; the arable being a small proportion, and the grain produced, almost solely oats and barley. The principal manure used is lime. The sheep are of two kinds: those on the east Moorlands are white-faced and polled, with long or combing wool; upon the lime-stone bottom they are strong and heavy, and are thought to be the most valuable breed on waste land in the county. Those upon the wastes in the west part of the Moorlands, and on the grit and gravel bottom, are a much inferior sort, and seem to have originated from the ancient Moorland



Moorland breed, continued without attention. They have some white, some grey or dark faces, with legs generally of the same colour; some are with, and some without horns; and their fleeces are too coarse for clothing, and too short for combing wool. The cattle of the long-horned kind are of a good size and form, and thrive better on the short grass of the lime-stone hills than might be supposed. They are superior to the breeds in the southern part of the county. Those fed on the Dove and the other rivers are in high esteem. On the western side a mixture of arable and pasture prevails, and the products are the usual ones of that part of the kingdom.

### MINERALS.

The *mineral* productions of this tract are various and important. The hill of Mole-cop, of which part is in Cheshire, and part in this county, has been already noticed as yielding stone of several kinds, particularly excellent mill-stones. Lime-stone is common in the Moorlands, and also on the western side, near Madeley. Great quantities of lime are burned upon Caldon Low, and in the neighbourhood of the Wever-hills. Clays of various species and colours, some tenacious, some friable, are found in great quantity near Newcastle, and have given rise to the potteries of that district, which are of ancient standing. Coals abound in most parts, of which a singular kind, called *peacock coal*, from the prismatic colours appearing on its surface, is dug at Handley-green. This district possesses the ores of iron, copper, and lead. Iron-stone is met with plentifully to the west of Newcastle: it is smelted at the Madeley furnaces, and yields a cold-short metal. Lead-ore is got not far from thence, which is used at the potteries. A copper mine is wrought at Mixon, near Leek; but the principal in these parts is that at Ecton-hill, in the parish of Wetton, belonging to  
the

the Duke of Devonshire. The hill in which the mine is situated is conical, and rises 700 feet above the river Dove which flows at its foot. Its diameter is about half a mile. The mine was worked in the last century, but after some years was neglected as unprofitable. About thirty-five years ago it was re-opened by a Cornish miner, and some adventurers at Ashborne took a lease of it, and expended 13,000*l.* in searching for ore without success. At length, after making a shaft 200 yards deep, they came to vast beds of the ore, which repaid their cost. The lease has since fallen to the Duke, and it is said to have cleared annually from 8000 to 10,000*l.*; but to be now less productive than formerly. More than 300 persons, men, women, and children, are employed in the works; the men in digging, the women and children in breaking and picking the ore. On the opposite side of the hill a lead mine has been discovered, which promises to be valuable.

*Staffordshire* was part of the country inhabited by the Roman *Cornavii*. Under the heptarchy it belonged to the *Mercian* kingdom. It is now, as to its civil jurisdiction, comprised within the Oxford circuit; and with respect to its ecclesiastical, within the diocese of *Litchfield* and *Coventry*. It is divided into five hundreds, of which about half of that of *Totmanslow* in the north-east, and a smaller portion of that of *Pyrehill* in the north-west, are included within the limits of this work.

## VI.—*Account of RIVER and CANAL NAVIGATIONS.*

THE great advantages accruing to trade from water-carriage have at all times been well known to commercial nations ; and in proportion as this island has advanced in manufactures and commerce, plans for connecting the internal parts of the country with the sea-ports by means of navigations have been encouraged and multiplied. It was natural, that extending and improving the navigation of rivers should be the first expedient thought of for this purpose ; and many projects of this kind were brought to effect in this kingdom, before the more expensive and artificial construction of canals was ventured upon. As our sea-ports are for the most part situated at, and indeed formed by, the mouths of rivers, which nature has made capable of admitting vessels to a certain distance up their channels ; the extension of this natural navigation by deepening their beds and removing obstacles has generally been attempted.

The port of Liverpool, at the mouth of the river Mersey, obviously depends for its consequence upon the facility of communication that can be established with the interior country ; and, on the other hand, the cheap conveyance of the yarn, cotton, and other raw materials to Manchester and its neighbourhood, and of the wrought goods to a port for exportation, is of evident importance to the interests of the manufacturers. By the assistance of the tide, which flows with rapidity up the channel of the Mersey, vessels were enabled, without any artificial help, to navigate as far as the neighbourhood of Warrington.

To render the higher parts of the river, through its communicating branch the Irwell, accessible to vessels as far as Manchester, was an improvement, which could not fail of suggesting itself to the enlightened inhabitants both of Manchester and Liverpool.

### IRWELL AND MERSEY NAVIGATION.

In the year 1720 an Act of Parliament was obtained, empowering certain persons in each town (but most of them resident in Manchester) to make navigable the rivers Irwell and Mersey from Liverpool to Manchester—so the words of the act run ; but as it is mentioned in the act, that the Mersey is already navigable from Liverpool to Bank-key near Warrington, and as all the stipulated demand for tonnage is confined to the navigation between that place and Manchester, it appears that the undertakers meant only to employ themselves in the improvement of the upper part of the river. This has been effected by the usual contrivances of wears, locks, &c. and the very winding course of the river has in several places been corrected by cuts across the necks of the principal bends. The want of water in droughts, and its too great abundance in floods, are circumstances under which this, as well as most other river-navigations, has laboured. It has been an expensive concern, and has, at times, been more burthensome to its proprietors than useful to the public. At present it is managed in a spirited and intelligent manner, and proves an useful addition in water-carriage to the rival canal-navigation.

### WEAVER NAVIGATION.

In the same year, 1720, an important accession was obtained to the internal communications of the port of Liverpool, by an act for making  
navigable

navigable the river Weaver, from Frodsham-bridge, which is near its conflux with the Mersey, up to Winsford-bridge beyond Northwich.

This act appointed certain persons to be undertakers and trustees of the proposed navigation, with power to borrow a sum of money to be advanced by other persons named, at five per cent. interest, and one per cent. for the risk, payable out of the first rates and duties accruing from the tonnage. If this sum should prove insufficient, the undertakers were empowered to borrow more, secured in the like manner. After all the borrowed money, and all costs and charges should be fully repaid, the clear produce of the rates and duties was directed to be applied towards amending and repairing the public bridges in the county of Chester, and such other public charges as the justices in quarter sessions should appoint; as also to the repair of highways leading from the salt-works to the river, and of other highways in the county. The sum at first thought sufficient to complete this work was 9000*l.*; but in an act to explain and amend the former, passed in 1759, it appears that a debt of 20,000*l.* had been contracted, the greatest part at five per cent. and the rest at four and half, secured by mortgages on the rates and duties of the navigation. This debt has now for some years been paid off, and a large annual balance is produced in favour of the undertaking. The annual income of the navigation is about 8000*l.* In the year ending April 1794, the amount of casual profits and wharfage was 286*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*; of tonnage, 8736*l.* 9*s.* 8½*d.*; and notwithstanding a large sum expended in new improvements, besides the usual repairs, there was paid to the County Treasurer for public purposes 3000*l.* The length of this navigation is twenty miles. It has a fall of 45 feet 10 inches, divided between ten locks. The rate of tonnage limited by the act is not more than one shilling per ton for all goods

whatsoever, and this is the charge now made for most goods. There are about 120 vessels constantly employed on the navigation, from 50 to 100 tons burthen. The kind of goods carried are principally white and rock salt downwards; and coals and some merchants goods (but the latter to no considerable amount) upwards. The rock salt comes from the pits at Northwich; and its cheap conveyance to Liverpool has proved of material benefit to that port, by furnishing a profitable article for loading or ballast to outward-bound ships. The coal is brought from Lancashire, and supplies a large tract of the internal parts of Cheshire.

The principle upon which this work was undertaken, (almost the only one of the kind which can be called a *public work*,) and the success with which it has been attended, seem to entitle it to particular notice.

### DOUGLAS NAVIGATION.

While the Mersey and its communicating rivers were thus objects of commercial speculation, another stream had its share of attention. The neighbourhood of Wigan is particularly rich in coal, and the little river Douglas flows from that town to the estuary of the Ribble. A year before the above-mentioned acts were obtained, viz. in 1719, an act passed for making the river Douglas, alias Asland, navigable from the river Ribble to Wigan. By means of this undertaking (which was not effected till 1727) the northern parts of Lancashire, and even Westmoreland, which produce no coal of their own, were supplied coast-wise with this necessary article; and the lime-stone and slate of those parts were brought back in return.

The Douglas navigation has since been purchased by the proprietors of the Leeds and Liverpool canal, who have in part substituted an artificial cut to the natural channel of the river.

### AIRE, CALDER, AND DUN NAVIGATIONS.

Considerably before this period, the clothing country of Yorkshire had applied its rivers to the purposes of water-carriage. An act for making navigable the rivers Aire and Calder to Leeds and Wakefield, passed in the year 1699, and various extensions and improvements in this navigation have been successively made: and in 1725, another river in the West-Riding, the Dun, was made navigable from Doncaster to the distance of two miles from Sheffield.

Various other projects of river navigations were set on foot during the first half of this century in Lancashire and Cheshire, some of which, however, were never carried into execution. One of these abortive schemes was that of making navigable Worley brook, to its junction with the Irwell, for which an act was obtained in 1737. It is worth mentioning only as the parent in design of the duke of Bridgewater's first canal.

### SANKEY CANAL.

But an undertaking particularly deserving of notice took place in the year 1755, which, under the general powers of an act for making navigable a river, in reality gave rise to the first canal-navigation made in England. In that year an act passed, by which certain undertakers were authorized to make Sankey brook or river navigable from the Mersey, which it joins about two miles below Warrington, up its three branches ;  
viz.

viz. to Boardman's stone bridge near St. Helen's, on the south branch ; to Gerrard's bridge on the middle branch ; and to Penny bridge on the north branch. From Sankey bridges to the stone bridge next above the mouth of Holme-mill-brook, was to be a new canal not communicating with Sankey brook. The owners of Sankey quays upon the old natural navigation of the brook from the Mersey were not to be prejudiced by the erection of quays or warehouses interfering with them. The new navigation was to be entirely free and open upon the payment of ten-pence per ton tonnage to the undertakers. They were empowered to extend the navigation 800 yards from the three bridges before-mentioned, as they found it convenient.

In a subsequent act granted in the year 1761, it is specified in the preamble, that the navigation is completed from the lowest lock on Sankey brook to Gerrard's bridge and Penny's bridge ; but that in neap tides the navigation is rendered impracticable for want of water in the brook. The undertakers are therefore empowered to make a canal to be begun within 250 yards from the lowest lock, and carried to the Mersey at a place called Fiddler's ferry. This new part is about one mile and three quarters in length ; and in consideration of it the undertakers are empowered to levy two-pence per ton more tonnage. The distance above the three bridges to which they are allowed to extend the navigation, is enlarged to 2000 yards.

The present state of the canal is as follows :—It runs entirely separate from Sankey brook, except crossing and mixing with it in one place about two miles from Sankey bridges. Its length from Fiddler's ferry to the place where it separates into three branches is  $9\frac{1}{4}$  miles. From thence it is carried to Penny bridge and Gerrard's bridge without  
going



going further ; but from Boardman's bridge it runs nearly to the limits of 2000 yards, making the whole distance from the Mersey 11½ miles. There are eight single and two double locks upon the canal, and the fall of water is about 60 feet. The chief article carried upon it is coal, of which, in the year 1771, by an account given in to Parliament, there were taken to Liverpool 45,568 tons, and to Warrington, Northwich, and other places, 44,152 tons. There are, besides, slate brought down, and corn, deal balk, paving and lime-stone carried up.

This navigation is never obstructed by floods, and seldom for any length of time by frost ; upon an average perhaps about a week every winter. The highest spring tides rise within a foot of the level of the canal at the lowest lock. Loaded vessels are generally neaped about three days, but unloaded, can pass to or from the river at every tide.

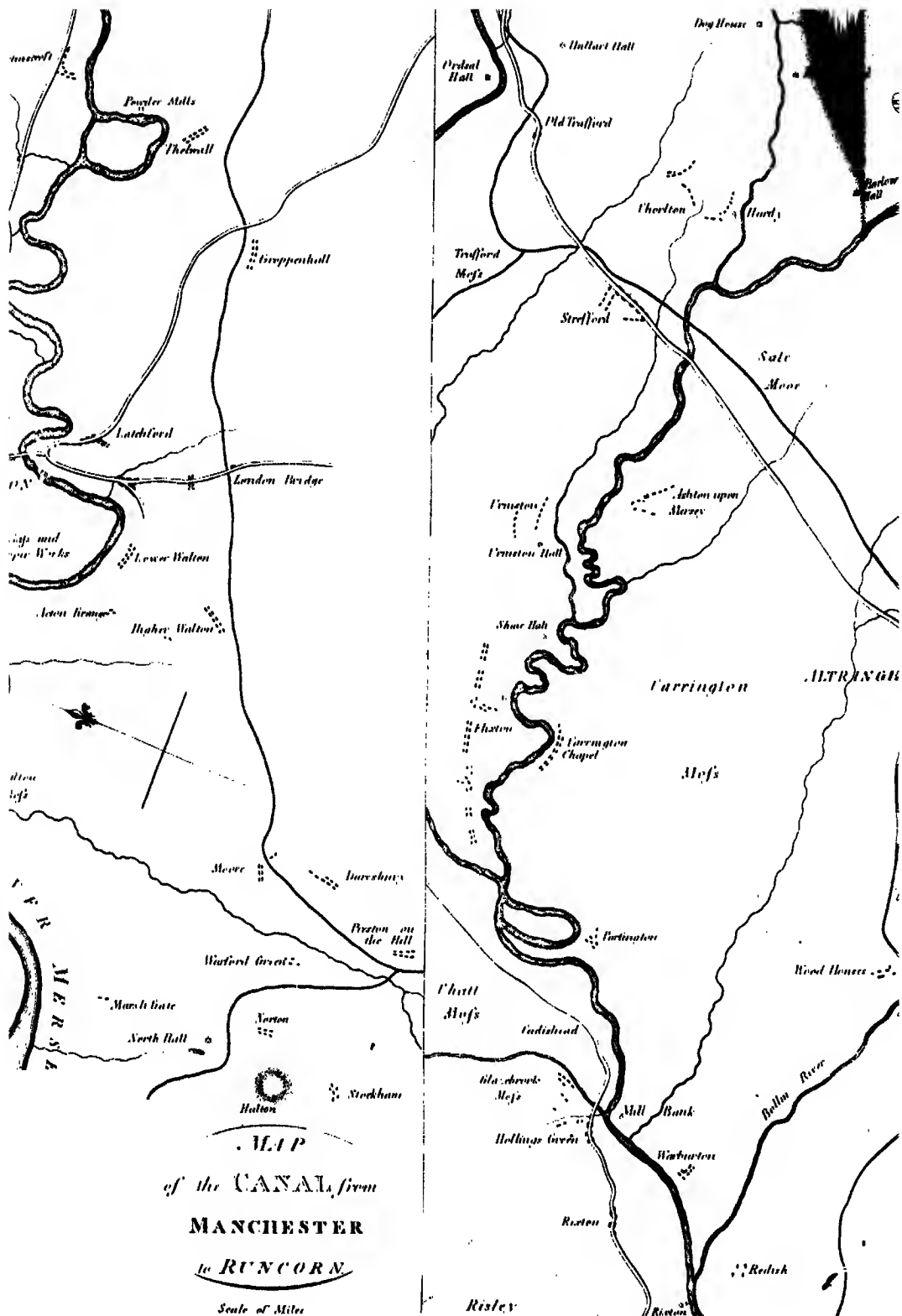
The old lock by which it at first communicated with Sankey brook still remains, but is seldom used, unless when a number of vessels are about entering from the Mersey at once, in which case some of the hindmost sometimes fail for Sankey brook in order to get before the others.

This canal has proved very beneficial both to the public and the undertakers. Some of the first collieries upon its banks are worked out, but others have been opened. Its business has been increased by the large copper-works belonging to the Anglesea company, erected on one of its branches, and by the plate-glass manufactory and other works founded near it, in the neighbourhood of the populous town of St. Helen's. Its original surveyor was Mr. John Eyles.

## DUKE OF BRIDGEWATER'S CANALS.

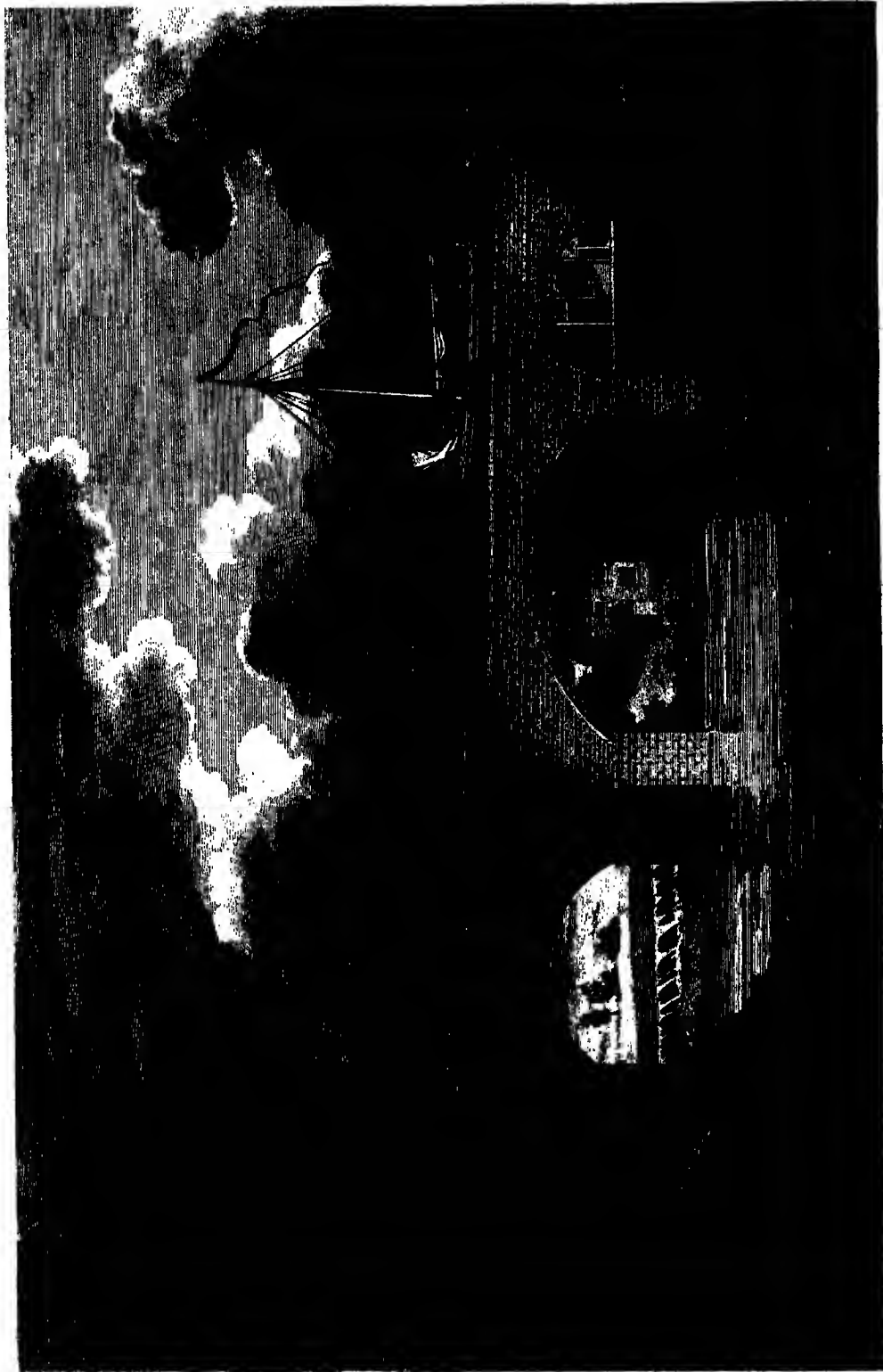
Those magnificent plans which have rendered the name of the *Duke of Bridgewater* so celebrated in the history of canal-navigation, commenced in the years 1758 and 1759, when acts were passed enabling him, first, to carry a canal from Worley to Salford, and also to Hollin-ferry on the Irwell; and secondly, to deviate from that course, and carry his canal from Worley across the river Irwell to Manchester, through the township of Stretford. Possessing an extensive property at and near Worley, rich in coals, which could not by land carriage be conveyed to Manchester so advantageously as those from the pits on the other side of that town, the Duke was naturally led to consider of a better mode of conveyance. The formerly projected, but unexecuted, scheme of making navigable Worley brook to the Irwell, evidently suggested the design; but the original and commanding abilities of his engineer, that wonderful self-instructed genius *James Brindley*, pointed out a much more eligible mode of effecting his purpose, than by means of the waters of a winding brook, subject to the extremes of overflow and drought.

This first undertaking was marked with the features of greatness. At its upper extremity in Worley it buries itself in a hill, which it enters by an arched passage, partly bricked, and partly formed by the solid rock, wide enough for the admission of long flat-bottomed boats, which are towed by means of hand-rails on each side. This passage penetrates near three quarters of a mile before it reaches the first coal-works. It there divides into two channels, one on which goes 500 yards to the right, and the other as far to the left, and may be continued









*L. S. S. S. S.*

V I E W O F B A R T O N B R I D G E .

*Platand map!*

nued at pleasure. In the passage at certain distances air funnels are cut through the rock, issuing perpendicularly at the top of the hill. The arch at the entrance is about six feet wide and about five in height from the surface of the water. It widens within, so that in some places the boats may pass each other. To this subterraneous canal the coals are brought from the pits within the bowels of the hill in low waggons holding about a ton each, which, as the work is on the descent, are easily pushed or pulled by a man along a railed way to a stage over the canal, whence they are shot into one of the boats. These boats hold seven or eight tons, and several of them being linked together, are easily drawn out by the help of the rail to the mouth of the subterraneous passage, where a large basin is made, serving as a dock. From hence they are sent along the canal to Manchester, in strings drawn by a horse or two mules.

It was the principle of this, as it has been that of all Mr. Brindley's canals, to keep on the level as much as possible; whence it has been necessary to carry them over the roads or streams upon arches after the manner of an aqueduct, and to fill up vallies by artificial mounds for their conveyance, as well as to cut down or bore through hills. The most striking of all the aqueduct works is in this first canal, where it passes over the navigable river Irwell at Barton bridge. The aqueduct begins upwards of 200 yards from the river, which runs in a valley. Over the river itself it is conveyed by a stone bridge of great strength and thickness, consisting of three arches, the centre one sixty-three feet wide and thirty-eight feet above the surface of the water, admitting the largest barges navigating the Irwell, to go through it with masts and sails standing. The spectator was, therefore, here gratified with the extraordinary sight, never before beheld in this country, of one ves-

fel sailing over the top of another ; and those who had at first ridiculed the attempt, as equivalent to building a castle in the air, were obliged to join in admiration of the wonderful abilities of the engineer, from whose creative genius there was scarcely any thing within the reach of possibility which might not be expected. This work is not the proper place for details of those admirable contrivances, in which every department in the making of his canals have abounded. They have introduced numerous improvements into the practice of similar works, and have received many additions from other ingenious persons, among whom the duke of Bridgewater's steward, Mr. Gilbert, merits a distinguished place.

This canal, after passing Barton bridge, was conveyed on the level, with great labour and expense, in a circuitous tract of nine miles, to Castlefield adjacent to Manchester. The most remarkable part of its course is that where it crosses the low grounds near Stretford upon a vast mound of earth, of great length, the construction of which exercised all the inventive powers of the conductor. At its termination it is fed by the river Medlock, and in order to keep up the water to a proper height, and prevent a superabundance of it in time of floods, a large circular wear is constructed, having in its centre an aperture, or swallow, which conveys the superfluous water by a subterranean passage into the brook below. Another wear of a similar kind is formed at Cornbrook, three miles further. By the act for making this canal, the Duke was limited to a rate of tonnage not exceeding two and six-pence per ton, and was bound to sell his coals at Manchester and Salford for no more than four-pence per hundred. On the execution of the undertaking, the poor of those towns were benefited by a reduction in the price of coals of one half of what they before paid, and vast quantities

1

were



were taken away by them from the wharf in Castlefield, in wheel-barrows, at three-pence halfpenny per hundred.

But before this first design was completed, a much greater and more important plan had opened itself to the Duke: which was an extension of his canal by a branch which, running through Cheshire parallel to the river Mersey, should at length terminate in that river below the limits of its artificial navigation, and thus afford a new and rival water-carriage from Manchester and its vicinity to Liverpool. The execution of this bold idea was authorised by an act of parliament obtained in 1761, which enabled the duke of Bridgewater to make a canal from Longford-bridge in the township of Stretford, to the river Mersey, at a place called the Hempstones in the township of Halton. It was opposed, but ineffectually, by the proprietors of the old river-navigation, on which its operation could not but be highly injurious, however beneficial it might be to the public. This canal, which is more than twenty-nine miles in length to its termination at Runcorn-gap, (which place was preferred to the Hempstones on account of the superior advantage it offered in entering the mouth of the canal at neap tides) was finished in five years. It is carried across the Mersey by an aqueduct-bridge similar to that over the Irwell at Barton, but lower, as the Mersey is not navigable in that part. Further on, it also crosses the small river Bollin, which, running in a tract of low meadows, has made a mound in that part necessary for the conveyance of the canal, of a height, breadth, and length, that forms a spectacle truly stupendous. The principle of keeping the level has been rigorously pursued, in defiance of expense and difficulty, for the whole length of the canal, till it is brought in full view of the Mersey at Runcorn. There it is precipitately lowered ninety-five feet in a chain of locks, of admirable construction,

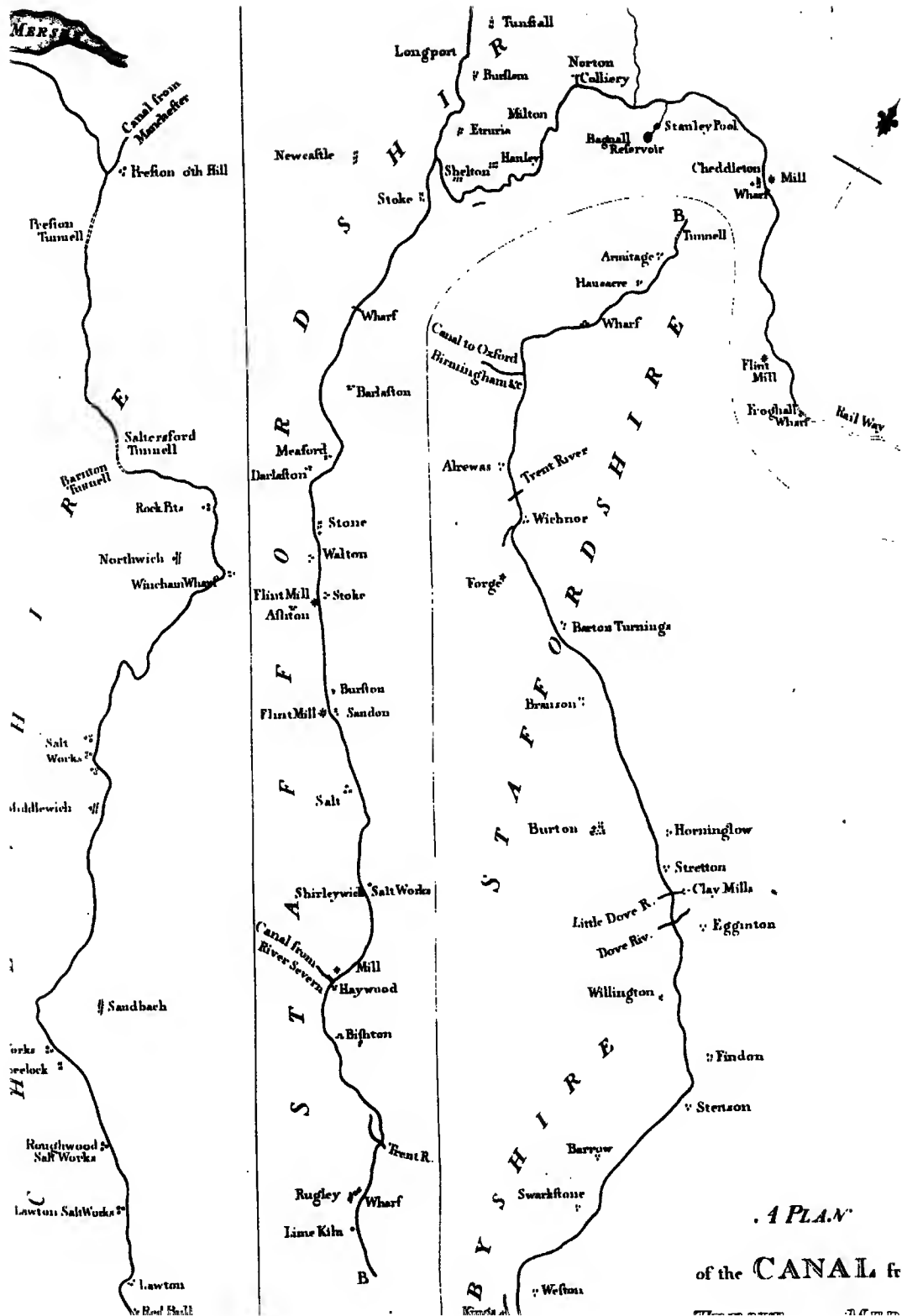
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struction, furnished at different heights with capacious reservoirs of water, in order to supply the waste incurred by the passage of vessels.

When the duke of Bridgewater undertook this great design, the price of carriage on the river-navigation was twelve shillings the ton from Manchester to Liverpool, while that of land-carriage was forty shillings the ton. The Duke's charge on his canal was limited to six shillings, and together with this vast superiority in cheapness, it had all the speed and regularity of land-carriage. The articles conveyed by it were likewise much more numerous than those by the river-navigation: besides manufactured goods and their raw materials, coals from the Duke's own pits were deposited in yards at various parts of the canal, for the supply of Cheshire; lime, manure, and building materials were carried from place to place; and the markets of Manchester obtained a supply of provisions from districts too remote for the ordinary land conveyances. A branch of useful and profitable carriage hitherto scarcely known in England, was also undertaken, which was that of passengers. Boats on the model of the Dutch treckschuyts, but more agreeable and capacious, were set up, which at very reasonable rates and with great convenience carried numbers of persons daily between Manchester and the principal extent of the canal. All these objects of traffic on the new canal became more and more considerable with the increasing trade of Lancashire; but other circumstances also greatly operated in its favour.

#### TRENT AND MERSEY COMMUNICATION.

There is a period in which the mind of man, roused to attend to any particular subject, whether of art, science, or regulation, is irresistibly





sistibly impelled to proceed in its career ; and this crisis was now arrived with respect to the internal communication between the different parts of this kingdom by means of navigable canals.

As early as the year 1755, the corporation of Liverpool, (which, perhaps, has distinguished itself beyond any other similar body in the kingdom for a liberal and spirited attention to commercial improvement) employed two persons, Mr. Taylor of Manchester, and Mr. Eyes of Liverpool, to take surveys with a view of determining the practicability of joining the river Trent with the Weaver or Mersey, and thus opening an inland communication between the great sea-ports of Liverpool and Hull. It was proposed that this navigation should go through the counties of Nottingham, Derby, Stafford, and Chester ; and on an accurate survey the design was reported to be practicable. The late Mr. Hardman, an intelligent merchant of Liverpool, and one of its representatives in parliament, was the chief promoter of this survey. Another survey, under the patronage of the present marquis of Stafford, and the late lord Anson, was made in 1758 by Mr. Brindley, and afterwards revised by him and Mr. Smeaton jointly ; and their opinions were equally in favour of the projected undertaking. An union with the river Severn and port of Bristol also became part of the design, which thus embraced the vast idea of connecting almost all the midland counties of England with each other, and with the different seas, by a chain of water communication. In the two plans offered to the public for effecting this purpose, one of the principal differences consisted in the manner of communicating with the Mersey. One proposed doing this by terminating the canal in the navigable river Weaver at Winsford-bridge : the other, by terminating it in the duke of Bridgewater's canal at Preston-brook. The latter, which was Mr.

Brindley's plan, was preferred, apparently on reasonable grounds, as it afforded a direct communication with Manchester, without the intervention of a single lock. In December 1765, a numerous meeting of land-owners and persons concerned in trade held at Wolfelcy-bridge in Staffordshire, agreed upon an application to parliament for leave to bring in a bill for making a navigable canal from the river Trent near Wilden-ferry in Derbyshire, to the river Mersey near Runcorn-gap; and the bill was accordingly brought in and passed in 1766.

### GRAND TRUNK CANAL.

This canal which, by its planner, was ingeniously termed the *grand trunk*, (in allusion to the main artery of the body from whence branches are sent off for the nourishment of the distant parts) and which is commonly known by the name of the *Staffordshire* canal, takes its course from north-west to south-east, across the county of Chester, and thence across Staffordshire beyond its middle, when, turning short in a north-eastern direction parallel to the Trent, it accompanies that river into Derbyshire, and enters it near the place where the high road from Derby to Leicester crosses the Trent over a bridge, substituted to the former Wilden-ferry. In length it is ninety-three miles. Its fall of water from its greatest elevation at Harecastle-hill, is 326 feet on the northern side, and 316 on the southern; the former effected by thirty-five locks, the latter by forty. Six of the most southern locks are fourteen feet wide, adapted to the navigation of large barges, and one of the northern is of the same width. The common dimensions of the canal are twenty-nine feet breadth at the top, sixteen at the bottom, and the depth four feet and a half; but in the part from Wilden to Burton, and from Middleswich to Preston-on-the-hill, it is thirty-one feet broad at the top,  
eighteen

eighteen at the bottom, and five and half deep. The canal is carried over the Dove in an aqueduct of twenty-three arches, the ground being raised to a considerable height for the space of a mile and two furlongs. Over the Trent it is carried by an aqueduct of six arches of twenty-one feet span each; and over the Dane, on three arches of 20 feet span. There are besides near 160 lesser aqueducts and culverts for the conveyance of brooks and small streams. The cart bridges erected over it are 109; the foot bridges eleven.

For the sake of preserving a level as much as possible, the hills and elevated grounds in the course of the canal have been pierced by five tunnels. Of these, that through the mountain at *Harecastle* is the principal, and has proved a work of vast labour and expense, in consequence of unforeseen difficulties. Its length is 2880 yards, with a width of nine feet, and a height of twelve, lined and arched with brick; and it runs more than seventy yards below the surface of the earth. The other tunnels are at *Hermitage*, 130 yards; at *Barnton*, in Great Budworth parish, 560 yards; at *Saltenford* in the same parish, 350 yards; and at *Preston-on-the-hill*, 1241 yards. Each of these is seventeen feet four inches high, and thirteen feet six inches wide. The boats employed upon the canal carry about twenty-five tons, and are drawn by one horse. The tonnage paid to the proprietors for the liberty of navigating is three-halfpence per mile. This great work was begun on July 17th, 1766. It was carried on with great spirit by Mr. Brindley while he lived, and was finished by his brother-in-law, Mr. Henshall, who put the last hand to it in May 1777.

Soon after this canal was undertaken, Mr. Brindley planned and executed a canal from the Grand Trunk at Haywood, to the river Severn  
near

near Bewdley ; thus completing the communication between the three principal ports of the kingdom, (after London) those of Bristol, Liverpool, and Hull, and all the inland country lying between them.

As the Staffordshire canal, or Grand Trunk, has a peculiar connection with the country which is comprized within the circuit of this work, it will be proper to state the chief sources of employment which it was expected to open, and the greater part of which have in effect accrued to it. They may be distributed into three heads : 1st. Natural products of the adjacent tracts of country.—2dly. Products of cultivation and manufacture.—3dly. Imported raw materials and objects of general commerce.

From Northwich to Lawton in Cheshire lies a vast bed of rock salt, estimated at forty yards in thickness, which, beside being purified for home and foreign consumption, might, were liberty obtained for such use, be employed to great advantage in agriculture and several of the arts depending on chymistry. At present, indeed, the Weaver navigation conveys to Liverpool all the rock salt wanted at that port ; but the possession of such a store on the banks of this canal may reasonably be accounted an advantage for futurity.

The hill called Mole or Mow-cop near Lawton, contains several useful kinds of stone enumerated in the general account of Cheshire. These are already carried to great distances by land-carriage, and of course must be conveyed by the much cheaper medium of canal-navigation to the various parts near its course. Several other valuable species of stone are met with near the canal ; as a fine free-stone near Wolsley-bridge, and near Burton upon Trent ; a whole mountain of lime-stone near the  
termination



mination of the canal, on which the village of Breden in Leicestershire is built; lime-stone quarries of note at Tickenhall in Derbyshire, and at Barrow in Leicestershire; gypsum or alabaster at Clay-hill. At Rudgeley is found the curious kind of coal called cannel, as well as other species of coal; and it is supposed that a subterraneous canal, like that of the duke of Bridgewater at Worsley, might be carried to the understrata of the mines, at the same time laying them dry, and affording a conveyance for their contents. Marl in large quantities would be thrown out in digging the canal, and might easily be procured close to its banks; whence this, as well as other manures, will be cheaply conveyed along the course of the navigation to the lands which want it.

That kind of iron ore which is called iron stone, proper for making cold-short iron, is contained abundantly in many parts of the country through which the canal runs. This has been found of great use for mixing with the red iron ore of Cumberland, in manufacturing the best tough iron, and has been conveyed by land-carriage to the Weaver in large quantities, in order to be shipped for the north for that purpose. It is to be presumed that greater quantities of it will be sent by the cheaper conveyance of the canal. Various other mineral products from districts more remote may probably find their way to this navigation, which will carry them to works where they may be usefully employed.

With respect to the products of culture, corn deserves the first consideration. The mutual advantage of conveying the products of the agricultural counties to the markets of the manufacturing towns, which can only be fed by means of distant supplies, and are enabled to pay the best prices, is obvious; and a cheap conveyance of the superfluity of plentiful years to the sea-ports for exportation is also a matter of

great consequence to the farmer. The Staffordshire and duke of Bridgewater's canal have derived a large share of their employment from the transport of articles of provision, some of which have been carried in quantities beyond all previous calculation. Timber growing in the interior country, especially oak for ship-building, cord-wood for charcoal, oak-bark for tanning, madder and woad for dying, must also from certain distances be brought to the canal for conveyance to the places of demand. The cheese of Cheshire destined for the supply of Lancashire, as well as part of that intended for London, will naturally go by this road; as well as the manufactured salt of that county for the use of the inland districts.

Of manufactures properly so called, the pottery wares, bricks, tiles, &c. of Burslem and the other villages in Staffordshire employed in that trade, being commodities of great weight in proportion to their value, will most certainly take the benefit of a canal running through the midst of them, and communicating with such an extensive tract of country as well as with the sea-ports. The same may be said in some degree of the heavy metallic manufactures carried on to such prodigious extent in Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Dudley, &c. from whence the grand trunk receives communicating branches. The manufactures of Manchester rather concern the duke of Bridgewater's and the other Lancashire navigations; but those of Derby, Nottingham, and Leicester will find their cheapest conveyance to Liverpool along the grand trunk. The ale of Burton, so much valued for exportation, may also be sent to Liverpool by its means, as it has been to Hull by the Trent.

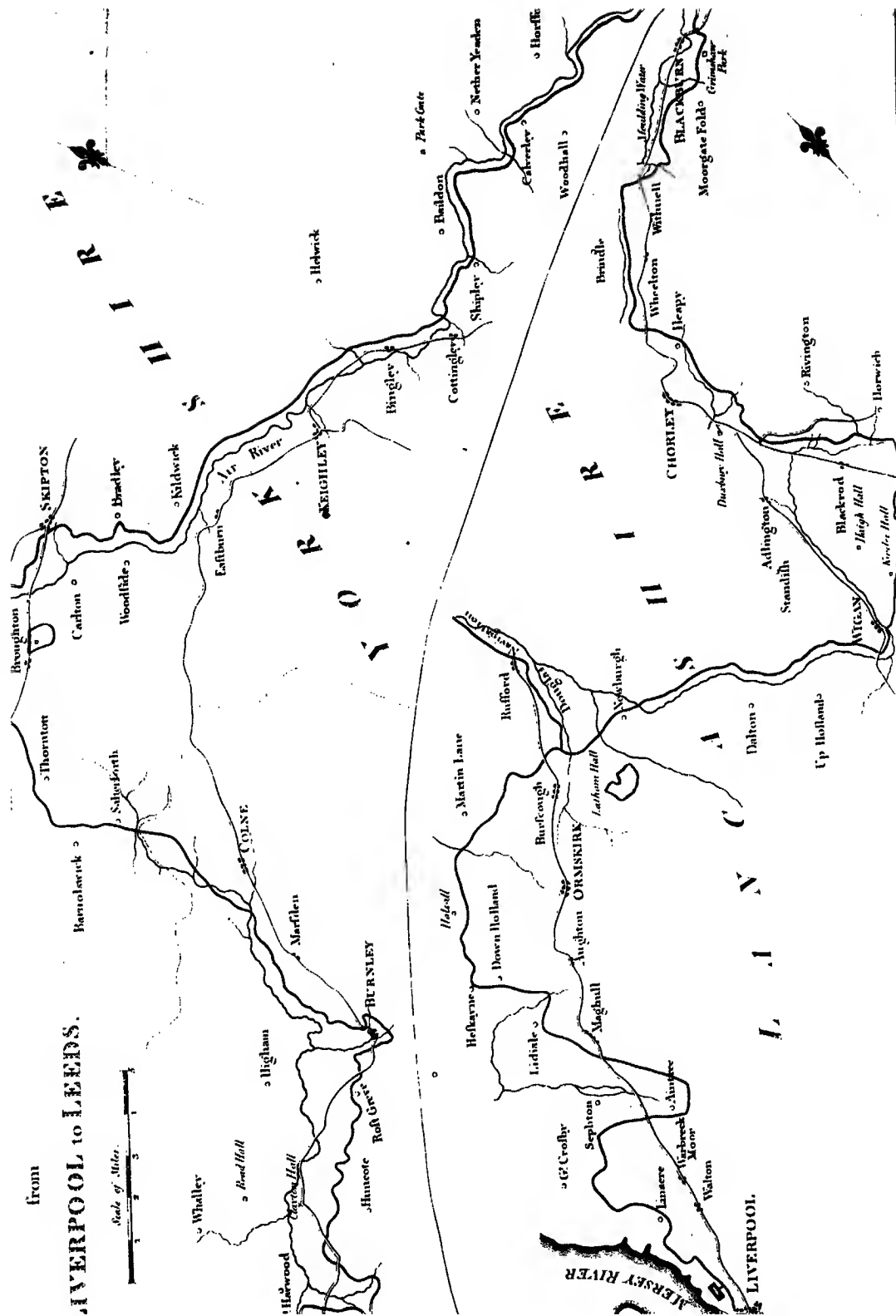
As to raw materials for the supply of manufactures, the flint stones and pipe-clay brought from vast distances coast-wise to the ports for the  
use



from

# LIVERPOOL to LEEDS.

Scale of Miles.  
1 2 3



use of the Staffordshire potteries, and to which, from their small value, the price of carriage is of peculiar consequence, cannot but afford an abundant source of employment to the canal, to the mutual benefit of the carriers and manufacturers. Birmingham and its neighbourhood will also receive part of their supply of metals by the same conveyance. Of other imported goods, fir timber for building, mahogany for cabinet work, wine, spirits, and heavy groceries, will be sent from the sea-ports to the interior country along this and its communicating canals.

To this view of the expected and experienced benefits arising to the undertakers of this great scheme of inland navigation, and to the public, it is proper to add, that the system of communication has since been rendered more complete by the junction of a branch passing from the great trunk to Coventry, with another proceeding from Oxford directly northwards through Oxfordshire and Warwickshire. Thus the first of our rivers, the Thames, and the first of our ports, that of the metropolis, have been added to the comprehensive chain of canal-navigation; and it cannot be doubted that such an accession must be felt through every part of it. We shall now return to the limits of our own circle, to mark all the undertakings of this kind within its boundaries which succeeded those of the duke of Bridgewater and of the Staffordshire company.

### LEEDS AND LIVERPOOL CANAL.

A navigation between the eastern and western seas by means of the rivers Aire and Ribble, had for many years been thought of as a practicable and useful work, and some endeavours had been used to draw the public attention to it, but ineffectually. At length, the success of

the duke of Bridgewater's canals excited Mr. Longbotham in 1767 to conceive the design of making a communication between Leeds and the port of Liverpool by similar means ; and having made a survey of the interjacent country, with plans and estimates of the proposed work, he produced them before various public meetings in Yorkshire and Lancashire, at which they were approved. Mr. Brindley was called in to determine on the scheme ; and after surveying all the tract pointed out by Mr. Longbotham, he made his report in its favour at two numerous meetings held at Bradford and at Liverpool in December 1768. The plan was there adopted, and an act for carrying it into execution was obtained in the beginning of 1770, and the work was begun in the latter end of the same year.

This design was the greatest and most adventurous that had then, or has since, been undertaken. The great direct distance between the two extremities, much augmented by the very winding course which the nature of the country demanded ; together with the high elevation of the tract on the borders of the two counties, which the most circuitous course could only in part avoid ; rendered the work so difficult and expensive, that nothing but the extraordinary zeal with which schemes of this kind now began to be pursued, could have stimulated the persons concerned to put it into execution. The whole length of the course from Leeds to Liverpool is 107 miles and three quarters : the fall from the central level is on the Lancashire side 525 feet ; on the Yorkshire, 446 feet. Its course is seen on the map. It may in general be remarked, that on the Liverpool side after making a large circuit round Ormskirk, it crosses the river Douglas, and proceeding north-easterly, runs for some miles parallel and near to the Ribble, then follows the course of the Lancashire Calder, which it crosses and re-crosses, till it arrives at its head in

the great bafon of Fouridge, near Pendle-hill and the town of Colne. Thence, declining on the Leeds fide, it runs north-eaftward to the banks of the Aire near Gargrave, which river it croffes, and afterwards clofely accompanies in its whole courfe to Leeds, paffing the towns of Skipton and Bingley. Of the two fide-branches, that to Wigan is upwards of feven miles and a half, with a fall of thirty-fix feet; that to Bradford is a little more than three miles, with a fall of eighty-feven feet fix inches.

On a curfory furvey of the tract of country through which this canal paffes, it will probably appear not extremely inviting to fuch an undertaking upon the whole; it is but lightly peopled; and though the great towns at the oppofite extremities abound in objects of commercial importance, yet their connection with each other is not very intimate, nor does it feem likely to be much promoted by fuch a circuitous communication. Coal and lime-ftone are the chief natural products of the intermediate country; and as the diftricts abounding in the one often want the other, a confiderable transport of thefe articles on the canal may be expected, as well as of other ufeful kinds of ftone found in quarries near its courfe. That confiderable benefits will accrue to the country, from the canal, cannot be doubted; in particular, agricultural improvements of its wafte and barren tracts by means of the eafier conveyance of lime and other manures may certainly be expected.

That part of the canal which goes from Liverpool to the Douglas, and thence, by a collateral branch (fubftituted to the old Douglas navigation) to Wigan, was finifhed with great celerity, and has proved of great advantage to the proprietors, and to the town of Liverpool, by the new and plentiful fupply of coals it has brought, which have caufed

a con-

a considerable exportation of that commodity from thence. The part adjacent to Leeds was likewise soon finished to the extent of several miles. By another act passed in 1783, liberty was obtained by the proprietors to purchase the Douglas river-navigation; and by a third in 1790, a power was given to raise an additional sum of money, and also to make a variation in the course of the canal.

A further and much more considerable variation in the course of the canal, projected in consequence of the interference of the new Lancaster canal, was permitted by an act passed in May 1794. By this a deviation begins from Barrowford in the township of Whalley, and taking a more southern line than the former, passes through Burnley, Accrington, Blackburn, Chorley, Adlington, Blackrod, West Houghton, Ince, and so to Wigan. This line will form a longer and more circuitous course, but will go through the centre of a country full of manufactures, and abounding in coal.

### CHESTERFIELD CANAL.

In 1769 Mr. Brindley surveyed the course of an intended canal from the town of Chesterfield to the river Trent; and in 1770 an act was obtained for putting his plan into execution. The tract of the canal is by Staveley forge and coal-works, to Harthill, which it penetrates by a tunnel, thence to Worksop, to Retford, where it crosses the Idle, and at length to the Trent, which it enters at Stockwith, a little below Gainsborough. Its whole length is forty-six miles: its rise from Chesterfield to Norwood is forty-five feet, and its fall from thence to the Trent 335 feet, for which it has sixty-five locks. The tunnel at Norwood through Harthill is 2850 yards; and that at Drake-hole 153 yards. The canal was completed so as to be navigated in 1776; but the



the expense of the work, amounting to 60,000*l.* was so much beyond the estimate, that shares fell to a very depreciated value; and though they have lately recovered themselves considerably, they are still below par. The principal trade on the canal is the conveyance of coal, got near Chesterfield, and sent to Worksoy and Retford, and by the Trent to Gainsborough and Lincoln. Lead is the next valuable article, of which a large quantity, the produce of the Derbyshire mines, is exported by its means. Wrought iron, pottery, and a few manufactured goods are also carried downwards upon it. The carriage upwards consists in large quantities of corn, lime, timber, groceries, &c.

### CHESTER CANAL.

The ancient port of Chester had long seen her younger rival, Liverpool, opening new sources to her extensive traffic, without any exertion to obtain a share in similar benefits. But in the years 1767, 1769, and 1770, the course of a canal from thence to the midland parts of the county was surveyed by different engineers, and after an unsuccessful attempt in 1769, an act was obtained in 1772 for making a navigable canal from Chester to the towns of Namptwich and Middlewich, but with the restriction, that it should not at the latter town join the Grand Trunk canal, which flows by it. Such a restriction, the fruit of a monopolizing spirit, though a manifest disadvantage to the scheme, did not prevent the execution of a great part of it. The canal to Namptwich was completed at the unforeseen expense of 80,000*l.* Its length is eighteen miles; its rise from Chester 170 feet ten inches. For want of money the branch to Middlewich was never cut; and thus the principal objects of the undertaking, the carriage of salt from that place to Chester, and the communication (though not by absolute junction)

tion) with the Grand Trunk, being never effected, the scheme has proved more totally abortive than any other in the kingdom. Its employment, at present, is not sufficient to keep it in repair, and shares have been sold at one per cent. of the original cost. There is now, however, some prospect of connecting it with the eastern line of the newly undertaken Shrewsbury canal, which may give an extension to its business.

### HUDDERSFIELD CANAL TO THE CALDER.

The manufacturing town of Huddersfield has obtained the advantage of a communication by canal with the river Calder. In 1774 an act passed enabling Sir John Ramsden, Bart. (proprietor of the town of Huddersfield) to make a canal from the Calder at Cooper's-bridge, where the river Colne falls into it, to King's-mill, near the town of Huddersfield. This has been executed, and is eight miles in length, with a fall of fifty-six feet ten inches divided into nine locks. It opens a communication with Hull and all its associated rivers and canals, and its benefits are manifest.

### LANGLEY-BRIDGE, OR ERREWASH CANAL.

Another Derbyshire canal, which it is proper to mention for the sake of connection, though out of the limits of our work, is that called Langley-bridge or Errewash canal. In 1777, the owners of the extensive coal-mines lying in the south-eastern part of the county, obtained an act for making a navigable canal from Langley-bridge to the Trent opposite to the entrance of the Soar near Sawley-ferry. It begins in the parish of Heanor, and runs very near and parallel to the

little

little boundary river Errewash in the greatest part of its course, passing through the above-mentioned collieries. Its length is eleven miles and a quarter; its fall, 108 feet eight inches, by means of fourteen locks. It furnishes an additional supply of coals to the districts bordering the Trent.

### MANCHESTER, BOLTON, AND BURY CANAL.

The vast extension of the Manchester manufactures after the peace of 1783, gave rise to various new schemes of water communication between the centre of that traffic and its principal stations in the surrounding country. The first of these was a canal from Manchester to Bolton with a branch to Bury, for which an act was obtained in 1791. It begins on the western side of Manchester from the river Irwell, to which it runs nearly parallel in a northerly course, crossing it at Clifton, and again near Little Lever, where its two branches, to Bolton and to Bury, separate. Its total length is fifteen miles one furlong, with a rise of 187 feet. The country with which this canal opens a communication, abounds in coals, together with other mineral products, which will by its means obtain a cheap and easy conveyance to the town and neighbourhood of Manchester. Mercantile goods, raw and manufactured, may also be expected to afford much carriage in this populous tract of country.

### MANCHESTER, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE, AND OLDHAM.

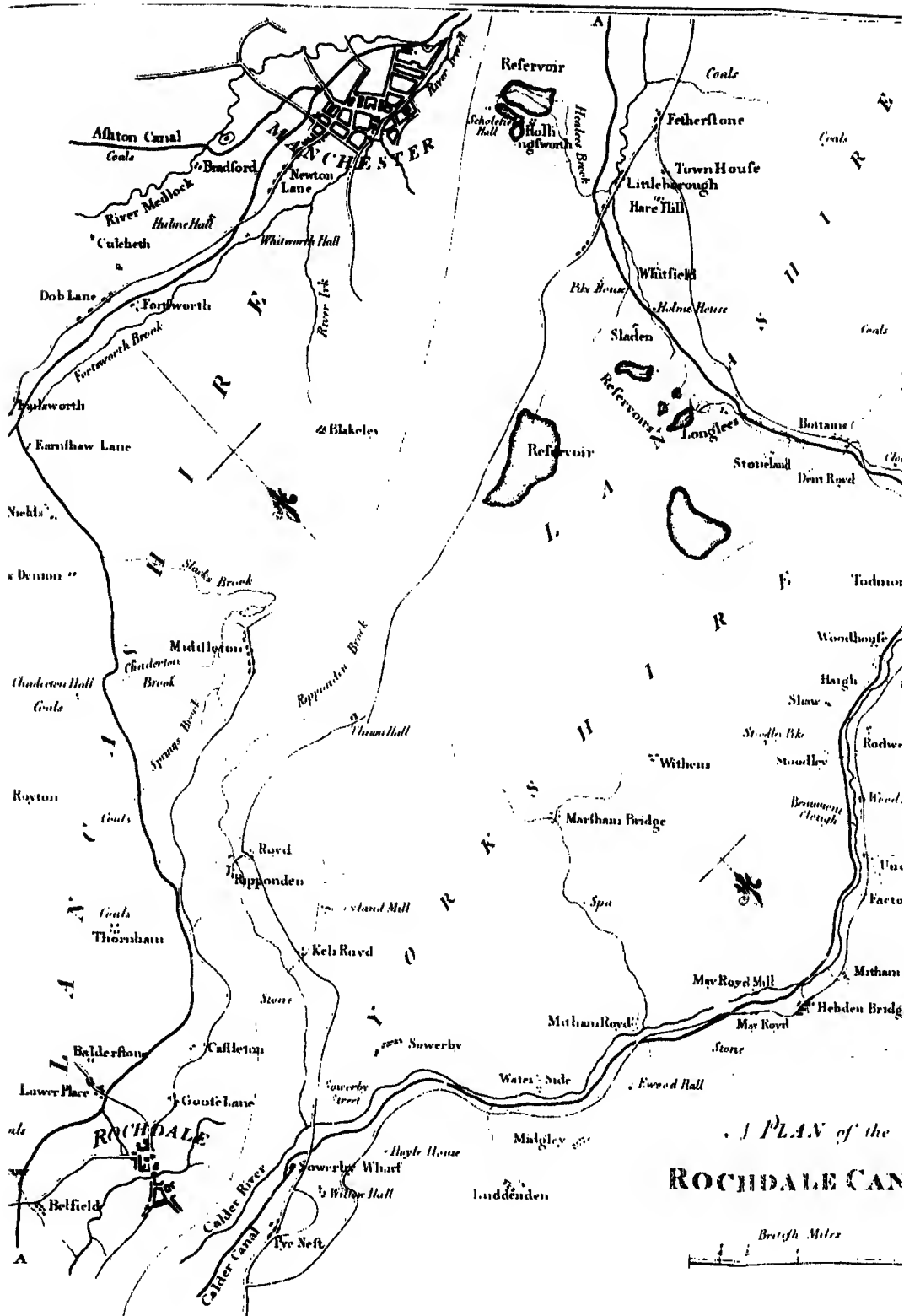
In 1792 an act was granted for making a canal from Manchester to Ashton-under-Lyne, and to the neighbourhood of Oldham. This commences from the east side of Manchester, crosses the Medlock, passes Fairfield, and terminates at Ashton-under-Lyne. At Fairfield a branch

goes off to the New Mill near Oldham ; from this there is a cut to Park Colliery. The whole length of the canal is eleven miles, and its rise is 152 feet. Coal, lime, lime-stone, and other minerals, and manure, are its principal objects of carriage. The two above-mentioned undertakings are nearly completed. A branch is intended to go from this canal to Stockport, a town which has hitherto been somewhat unaccountably frustrated of the benefits of water communication, though an extension to it was included in the powers first granted to the duke of Bridgewater.

A connection between Manchester and Rochdale by canals has been a matter of much discussion, and different plans have been proposed, and met with their abettors and opponents. One of these was an extension of the Bury canal, the distance from which town to Rochdale is not considerable : but this plan was given up for a design of much greater magnitude, which, in effect, is another junction of the east and west seas.

### ROCHDALE CANAL.

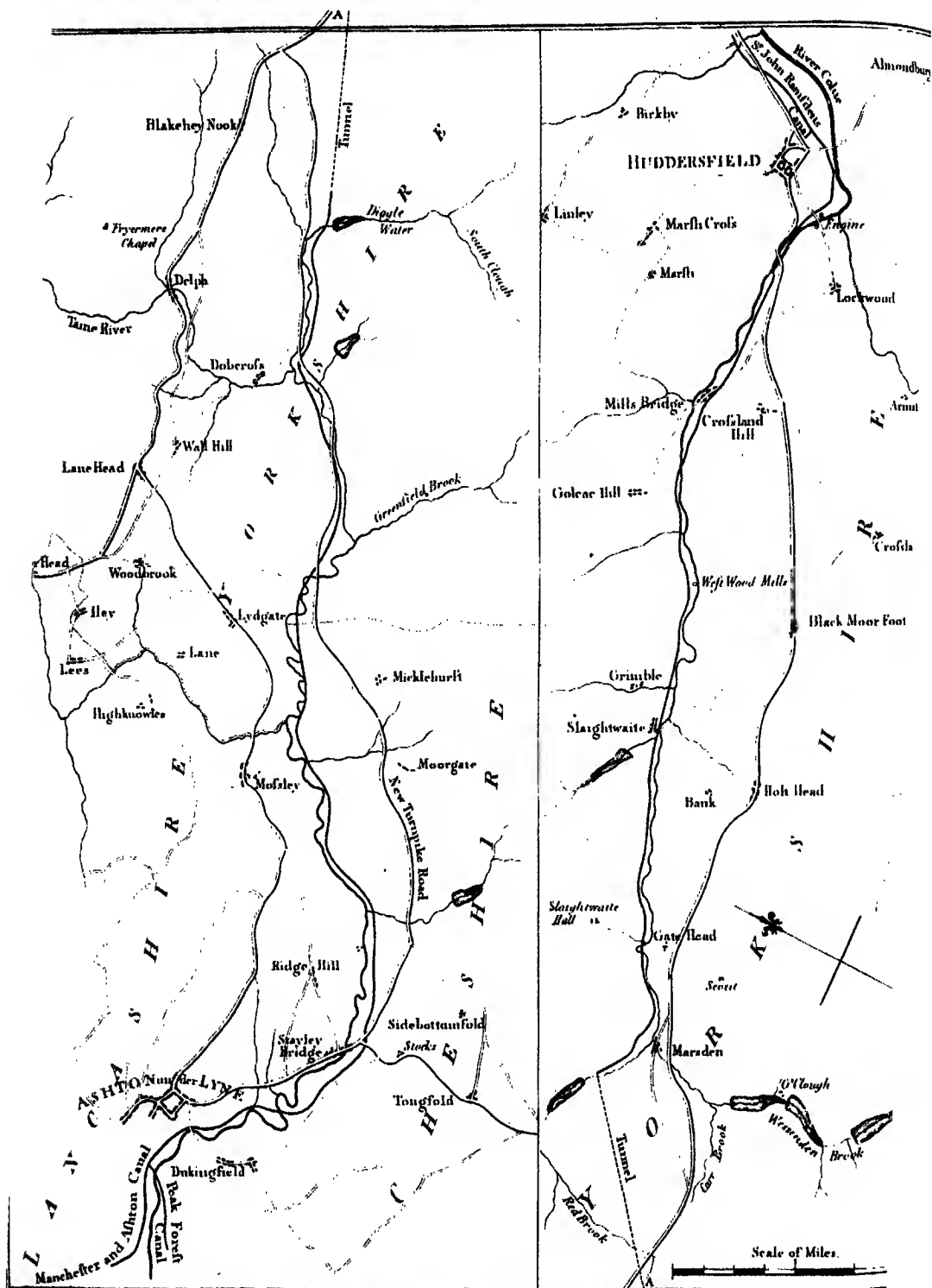
An act passed in April 1794 authorizes the opening of a navigation from the duke of Bridgewater's canal at Manchester, to the Calder navigation at Sowerby-bridge near Halifax. Beginning from the south-west side of Manchester, it leaves that town at the north-east corner, and takes its course nearly parallel to the Oldham road as far as Failsworth. Here it turns directly north, and proceeds through the tract of coal country about Fox Denton, Chaderton, Middleton, and Hopwood, to a small distance to the east of Rochdale, whence it sends off a short branch to that town. Having passed Littleborough it gains its head level about Dean-head. It was originally intended to enter the hill at this place







*A PLAN of the CANAL from HUDDERSFIELD to ASHTON under LYNE.*





place by a tunnel, but this is now avoided. Hence it proceeds to Todmorden, where it turns north-east to Hebden-bridge, and then bends somewhat to the south-east, till it reaches the Calder navigation at Sowerby-bridge, having during the latter part of its course closely accompanied the river Calder. Its whole length from one extremity to the other is thirty-one miles and a half; that of two short collateral branches, about a mile and quarter. From its head level it falls 275 feet on the Halifax side: 438 feet seven inches, on the Manchester side. In order fully to obviate an objection which was the cause of a strong opposition to it—the danger of cutting off those streams which feed the river Irk, by which the school-mills at Manchester are worked, as well as those which feed the mills on the Roach and Calder—great reservoirs have been made in the hilly country near different parts of its course, abundantly sufficient to supply all the waste of locks or leakage, without borrowing from any of the above-mentioned streams. The advantages stated to be expected from this design, are those of a complete canal-navigation from sea to sea, a communication of import and export between the ports of Liverpool, Bristol, and Hull, and the populous and manufacturing towns of Rochdale, Halifax, Oldham, and their vicinities, and a general mutual communication between these districts and all the other great manufacturing places visited by the canals with which this is mediately or immediately connected. The work is at this time carrying on with celerity and success.

#### HUDDERSFIELD CANAL TO ASHTON.

So active was now become the spirit of adventure, that another communication between the two seas, passing through a line of country somewhat to the south of the former, was undertaken. This is the Huddersfield canal, the act for which passed in April 1794. Its two

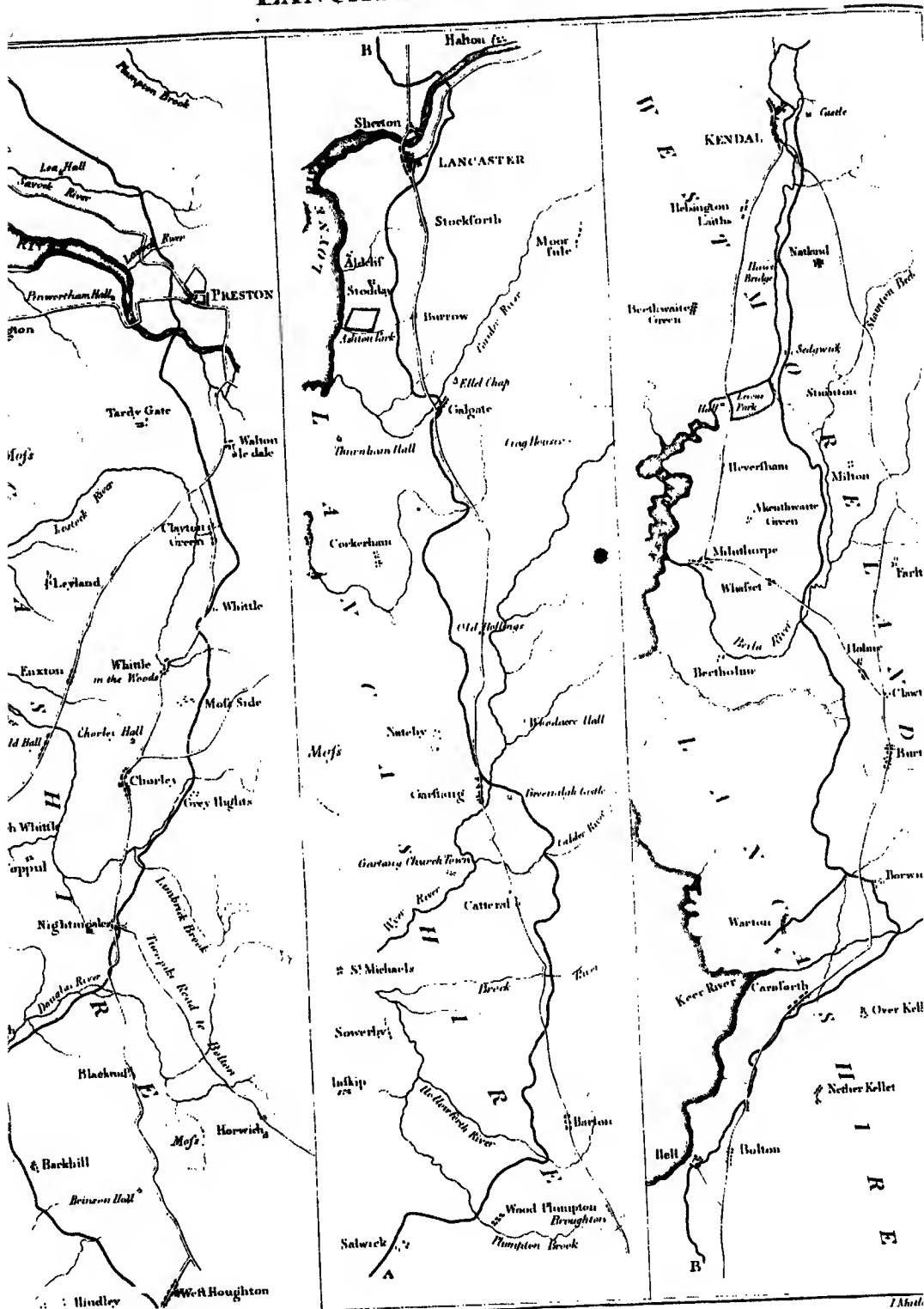
extremities are the Ashton-under-Lyne canal on the western side, and Sir John Ramsden's canal to the Calder on the eastern. Its general direction is north-east. From Ashton it takes its course parallel to the Tame, often crossing its windings, by Stayley-bridge, and enters Yorkshire in the manufacturing township of Saddleworth. Arriving at its head level, it penetrates the high grounds by a tunnel of three miles in length, passing beneath Pule Moss, and coming out near Marfden: thence it proceeds by Slaighthwaite to Huddersfield, closely accompanying, and often crossing, the Coln. Its extreme length is nineteen miles and near three quarters; its fall from the head level is 436 feet on the Huddersfield side, and 334 feet eight inches on the Ashton side. Several of the little brooks in the hills are widened into reservoirs for its supply of water. This navigation claims similar advantages with the Rochdale canal with respect to general communication; and as it passes through one of the most populous tracts of the clothing country, it may expect a proportionate share of employment in the export and import of raw materials, manufactured goods, and other articles. The supply of lime to the lands in its course is also likely to be very beneficial in promoting agricultural improvements..

#### PEAK-FOREST CANAL.

Another newly projected canal; called the Peak-forest, the act for which passed in March 1794, will augment the communications of the preceding navigation, as well as of the general system. It proceeds from Milton near Chapel-le-Frith in the Peak of Derbyshire, and entering Cheshire near Whalley-bridge (to which a branch is carried) crosses its eastern horn by Disley, Marple, Mellor, and Chadkirk, and joins the Ashton-under-Lyne canal near Dukinfield-bridge. The great object of this undertaking is to convey at a cheap rate the lime with  
which



# LANCASTER CANAL



which that part of the peak is stored, to all the country of Cheshire, Yorkshire, and Lancashire, with which the canal communicates.

### CROMFORD CANAL.

A new canal, which commences within the limits of our circle in Derbyshire, begins at Cromford, and running some way parallel to the Derwent, passes Critch Frithley, Todmoor, Heage, and Heynor, and joins the Errewash canal at Langley-bridge. Its total length is about fourteen miles, of which the first eleven are level; the latter three have a fall of about eighty feet. There is a collateral cut to some coal-works upon the level, about three miles in length. Besides several small tunnels, there is one on this canal of about 3000 yards. By this navigation a water communication is established between the centre of Derbyshire and the Trent; and the reciprocal conveyance of coal and other mineral productions, as well as merchant-goods, to the several connected parts, cannot fail of being highly beneficial to the whole tract. Some of the most important articles to be expected, are raw materials to, and manufactured goods from, the very extensive cotton works of Mr. Arkwright at Cromford, near Matlock, and Holme, near Bakewell; Mr. Strutt's large cotton factory at Belper; and another at Wirksworth; the carriage of pigs of lead from different works; and the business of the iron-forge at Critch-chase on the Derwent.

While these additional communications between the east and west seas, and different parts of the interjacent country, were projecting, a new and singular design was set on foot of carrying a canal from Westmoreland to the centre of Lancashire in a line parallel to the sea-coast.

### LANCASTER CANAL.

The Lancaster canal, for which an act was obtained in 1792; commences at Kendal, having a feeder from a rivulet about a mile beyond

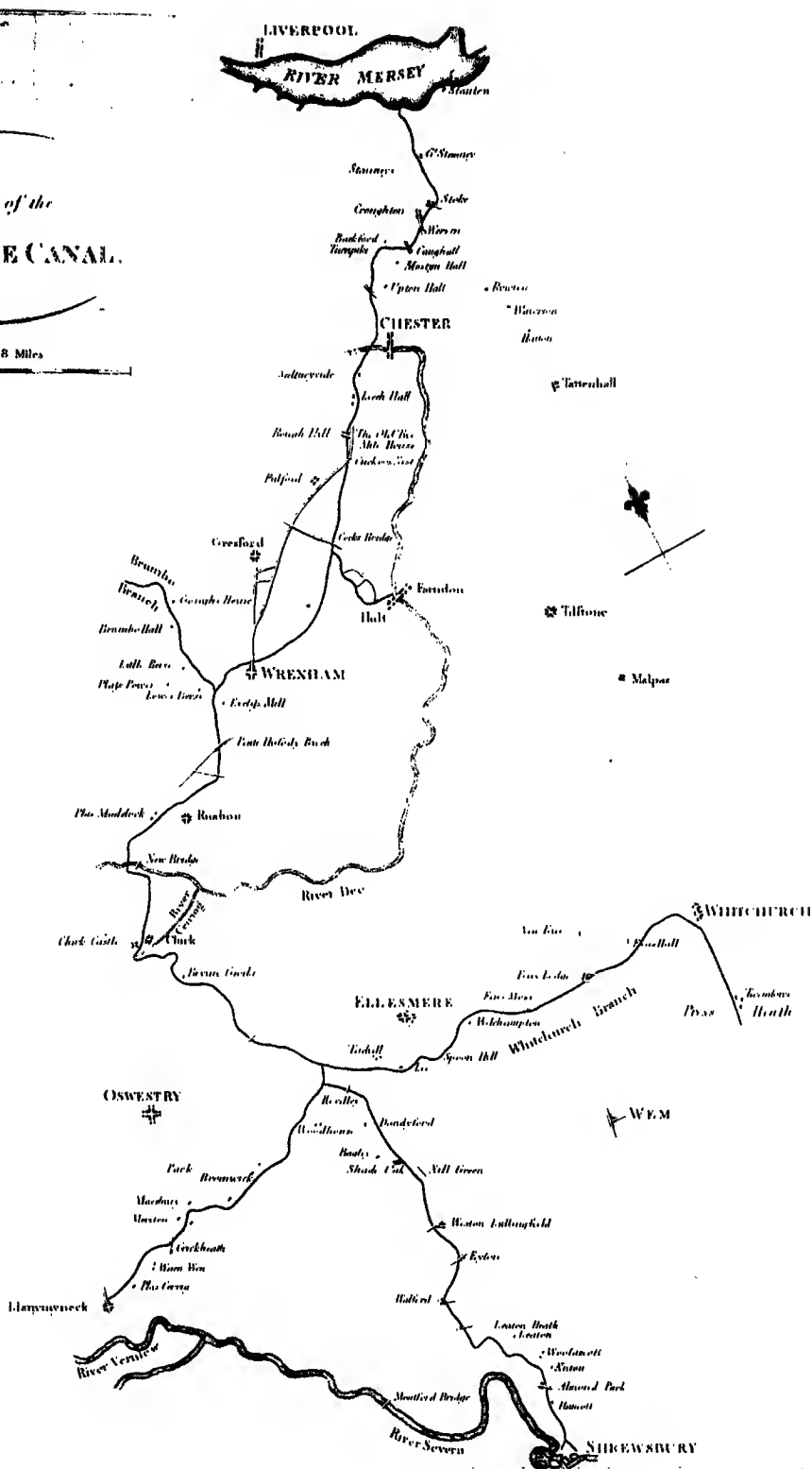
the town. It proceeds directly southwards, and enters Lancashire near Burton, having passed under ground for about half a mile, near mid-way. At Borwick, a little south of Burton, it sinks to its mid-level, which it preserves for more than forty-two miles, making for this purpose a very winding course, in some places approaching almost close to the sea-beach. It crosses the Loyne a little above Lancaster in a magnificent aqueduct, and passes by the east and south of that town. At Garstang it crosses the Wyre, and having made a bend westward, by which it is brought within two miles of Kirkham, it next passes the western side of Preston, and crosses the Ribble. Ascending then through a series of locks, it crosses the Leeds and Liverpool canal, and reaches its highest level, on which it proceeds a little to the eastward of Chorley, across the Douglas, through Haigh, (noted for its cannel pits) and bending to the east of Wigan, arrives at its termination at West Houghton. The whole of this course is seventy-five miles and upwards of five furlongs. The fall from Kendal to the mid-level is sixty-five feet; and the rise from thence on the southern side, 222 feet. A collateral cut in the neighbourhood of Chorley is near three miles in length; and another near Borwick is near two miles and a half.

The principal objects of this canal are to make an interchange of product between the coal and lime-stone countries, and to form a communication between the port of Lancaster and the interior parts to the north and south. All the country north of Chorley is destitute of coal, with which it has hitherto been supplied either by a burthenful land-carriage, or by a coast-wise navigation by means of the Douglas canal to the mouth of the Ribble. The present canal, in its tract from Chorley to West-Houghton, passes through a country replete with inexhaustible stores of coal of various species. On the other hand, the  
country



# *A PLAN of the* **LESAMERE CANAL.**

Scale of 8 Miles





country for sixteen miles to the south of Kendal is full of lime-stone, of which all the northern part of Lancashire is destitute. The port of Lancaster, having a large importation of cotton as well as other foreign merchandize, will be enabled to convey its commodities on easy terms to various populous and manufacturing places in the course of this canal. A considerable part of this design is completed.

### ELLESMERE CANAL.

We have only one other navigation to mention, the termination of which is within our boundaries. It forms a direct junction between the Severn, and the Dee and Mersey, and is commonly called the Ellesmere canal. The act for it passed in April 1793. Taking its rise at Shrewsbury, it first bends to the north-west, passing near Ellesmere and Chirk, to the river Dee, which it crosses; and then turning north-east, it goes by Ruabon and Wrexham, to the city of Chester; which it passes on the west side, communicating with the navigable channel of the Dee. Hence it takes its course across the neck of the peninsula of Wirral, to the estuary of the Mersey. The whole length of this intended canal is fifty-five miles and a half; viz. from the Severn to the Dee at Chester, forty-seven miles; from the Dee to the Mersey, about eight miles and a half. Several collateral branches are projected, viz. to Llanymynech, ten miles; to Whitchurch, sixteen miles six furlongs; to Brunbo collieries, three miles; to Holt, three miles and a quarter. It will communicate with many extensive collieries, lime-stone, blue slate, and other quarries, iron-works, and lead-mines. It will connect three considerable rivers; the town of Shrewsbury with the ports of Chester and Liverpool, and these with each other; and will provide a large tract of intermediate country, with all the usual advantages of an inland navigation, of which it is at present destitute.

Of:

Of the vast and multifarious designs above described, which a few late years have spread over this tract of country, all may be said to be in a state either of completion or of progress, though in different degrees. Of some, the immediate benefits are so apparent, that they have stimulated the undertakers to the most vigorous exertions. Others, which have great difficulties to encounter, and the objects and advantages of which have, perhaps, not been so decisively considered, will probably require many years for their complete execution; nor is it unlikely that various deviations from the original plans may be made during the progress of the works. Competitions and interferences have arisen between the different undertakings, in proportion as the number of them has increased, by which the prospects of advantage which at first offered themselves to the projectors have materially altered. In particular, the most extensive of all the designs, the Leeds and Liverpool canal, since its commencement, has felt the rivalry of two nearer communications between the east and west seas, and of a readier conveyance of coal from the middle to the northern parts of Lancashire; on which account a considerable variation of its course has been proposed, as already mentioned.

Meantime, the prodigious additions made within a few years to the system of inland navigation, now extended to almost every corner of the kingdom, cannot but impress the mind with magnificent ideas of the opulence, the spirit, and the enlarged views which characterize the commercial interest of this country. Nothing seems too bold for it to undertake, too difficult for it to achieve; and should no external changes produce a durable check to the national prosperity, its future progress is beyond the reach of calculation. Yet experience may teach us, that the spirit of project and speculation is not always the source  
of

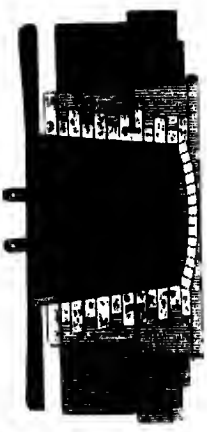


# *Deck for a 'Can'*

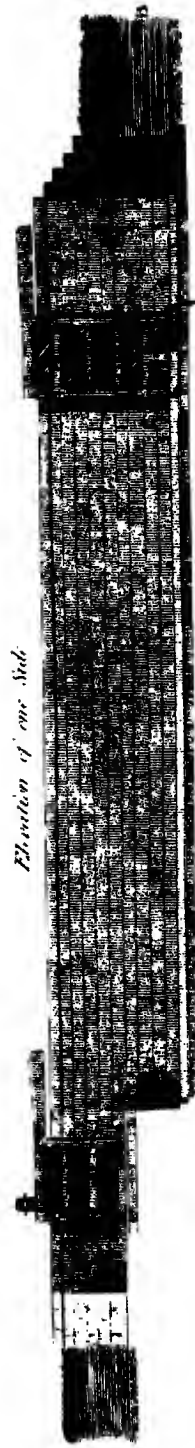
*Upper tables*



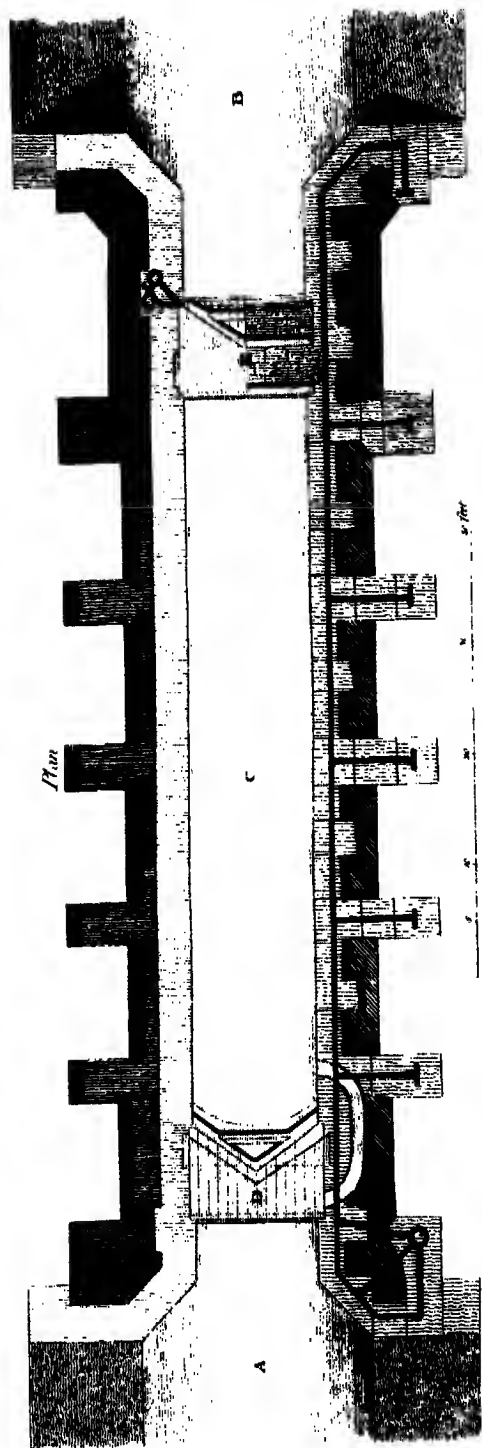
*Lower tables*



*Elevation of one side*



*Plan*







of solid advantage, and possibly the unbounded extension of canal navigation may in part have its source in the passion for bold and precarious adventure, which scorns to be limited by reasonable calculations of profit. Nothing but highly flourishing manufactures can repay the vast expense of these designs. The town of Manchester, when the plans now under execution are finished, will probably enjoy more various water-communications than the most commercial town of the Low Countries has ever done. And instead of cutting them through level tracts, so as only to make a wider ditch, its canals are carried over mountainous districts, where the sole method of avoiding the difficulties of steep ascent and descent, has been to bore through the very heart of hills, and navigate for miles within the bowels of the earth. At the beginning of this century it was thought a most arduous task to make a *high road* practicable for carriages over the hills and moors which separate Yorkshire from Lancashire; and now they are pierced through by *three navigable canals*! Long may it remain the centre of a trade capable of maintaining these mighty works!

It has been thought proper to add to this chapter some plates illustrative of canal navigation, with their explanations, from *Mr. Phillips's History of Inland Navigation*.

DESCRIPTION of Plate I. which shews the PLAN, &c. of a LOCK for  
a CANAL.

- A. The upper water of the canal.
- B. Lower ditto.
- C. Chamber of the lock.
- D. The platforms on which the upper gates are hung.

T

E. The

E. The lower ditto, shewing the manner of construction.

F. Sluices through which the water passes into the chamber, to raise it equal with the upper level.

G. Paddles in the gates, to reduce the water to the lower level. There is a *chain-bar*, run with lead in a course of stone, set at water level.

Plate II. shews a design for an aqueduct which crosses a river the width of the three centre arches; and, to occupy the remaining space usefully, the extreme arches are converted into warehouses.

a. The river. b. The canal. c. Towing-path. d. Warehouses. e. A bed (technically a *punn*) of clay, to prevent the water weeping through the arches. f. The canal continued by embankment.

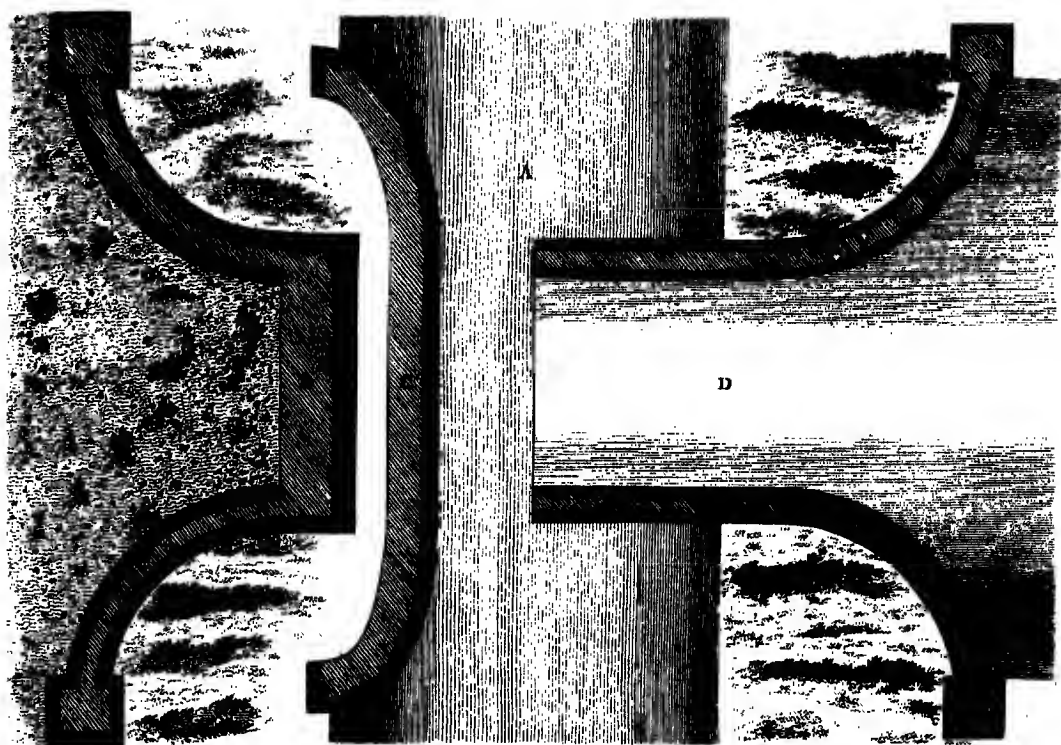
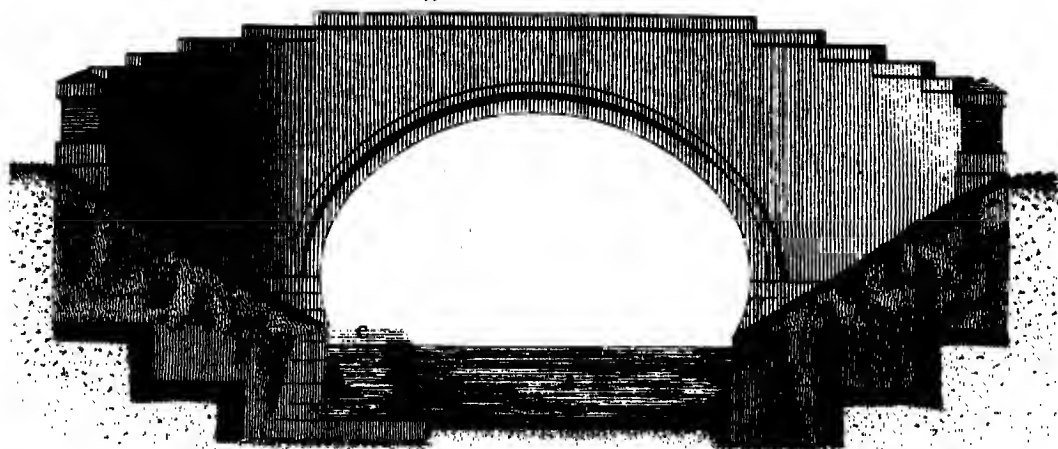
Plate III. *Elevation, &c. of a bridge.*

a. The canal. b. Plan of the foundation. c. Towing-path under the bridge. d. Plan of the superstructure.

Also, a canal in its course often divides lands with which some communication is necessary for the purposes of husbandry. The easiest method is shewn on plate IV. This is called *an accommodation bridge*. It hangs by large hooks and eyes, or hinges, and is worked up and down with ease, by means of the balance poles. This view also shews a towing-path gate, which is used for dividing grounds, and is hung so as always to fall to.

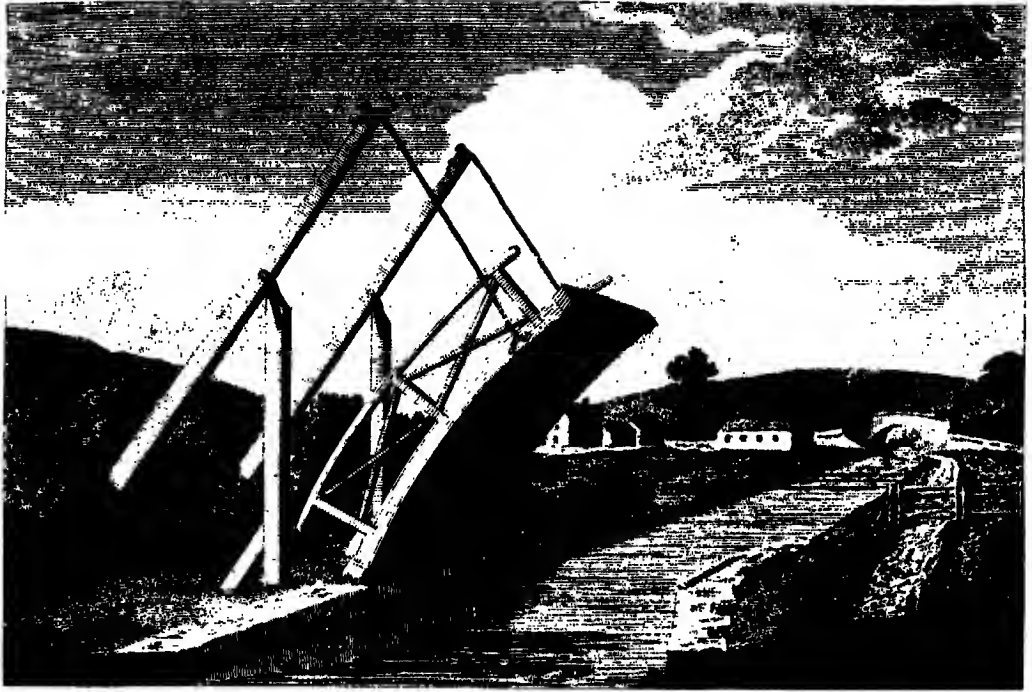


*Bridge for a Canal.*



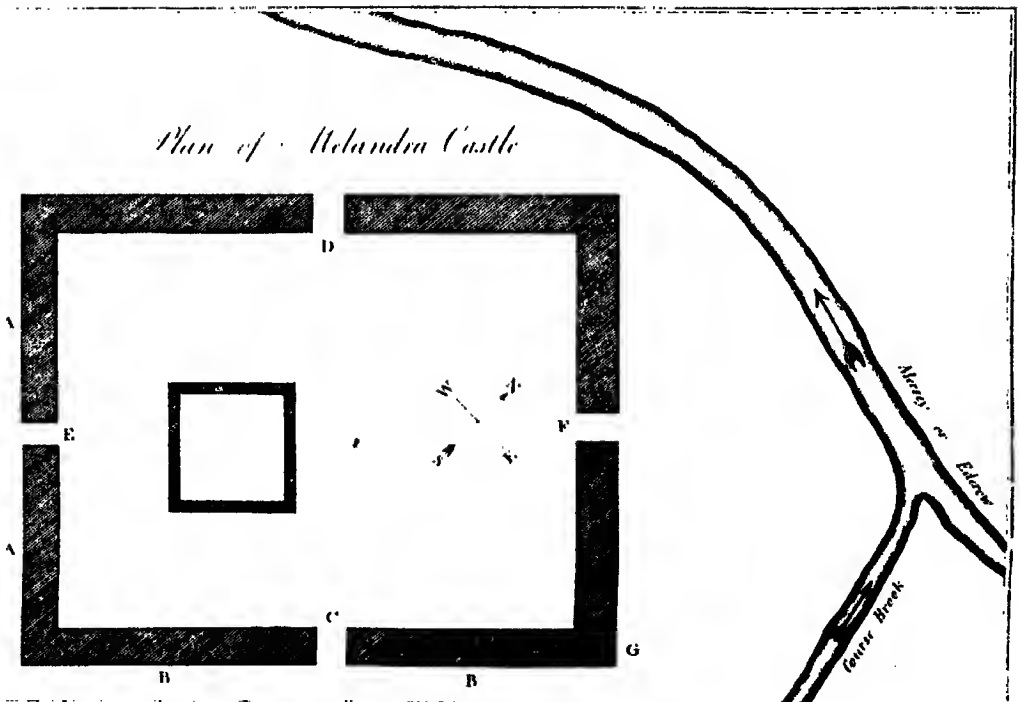
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*Accommodation Bridge for a Canal.*

*Plan of Helandra Castle*



*Published May 27. 1793. by J Stockdale Broadbent.*



A biographical account of the late celebrated *Brindley* properly belongs to this work, as he was born within the limits of its inquiries ; but from the intimate connection between his life and the system of canal navigation, it is imagined that such an account will be read with more interest and advantage in this place, than where it would have come in according to the order of the work.

#### ACCOUNT OF MR. BRINDLEY.

JAMES BRINDLEY was born at Tunsted in the parish of Wormhill, Derbyshire, in 1716. His father was a small freeholder, who dissipated his property in company and field-amusements, and neglected his family. In consequence, young Brindley was left destitute of even the common rudiments of education, and till the age of seventeen was casually employed in rustic labours. At that period he bound himself apprentice to one Bennet, a mill-wright, at Macclesfield, in Cheshire, where his mechanical genius presently developed itself. The master being frequently absent, the apprentice was often left for weeks together to finish pieces of work concerning which he had received no instruction ; and Bennet on his return was often greatly astonished to see improvements in various parts of mechanism of which he had no previous conception. It was not long before the millers discovered Brindley's merits, and preferred him in the execution of their orders to the master or any other workman. At the expiration of his servitude, Bennet being grown into years, he took the management of the business upon  
T 2 himself ;

himself ; and by his skill and industry contributed to support his old master and his family in a comfortable manner.

In process of time, Brindley set up as a mill-wright on his own account, and by a number of new and ingenious contrivances greatly improved that branch of mechanics, and acquired a high reputation in the neighbourhood. His fame extending to a wider circle, he was employed in 1752 to erect a water-engine at Clifton, in Lancashire, for the purpose of draining some coal-mines. Here he gave an essay of his abilities in a kind of work for which he was afterwards so much distinguished, driving a tunnel under ground through a rock nearly 600 yards in length, by which water was brought out of the Irwell for the purpose of turning a wheel fixed thirty feet below the surface of the earth. In 1755 he was employed to execute the larger wheels for a silk mill at Congleton ; and another person, who was engaged to make other parts of the machinery, and to superintend the whole, proving incapable of completing the work, the business was entirely committed to Brindley ; who not only executed the original plan in a masterly manner, but made the addition of many curious and valuable improvements, as well in the construction of the engine itself, as in the method of making the wheels and pinions belonging to it. About this time, too, the mills for grinding flints in the Staffordshire potteries received various useful improvements from his ingenuity.

In the year 1756 he undertook to erect a steam-engine upon a new plan at Newcastle-under-Line ; and he was for a time very intent upon a variety of contrivances for improving this useful piece of mechanism. But from these designs he was, happily for the public, called away to take the lead in what the event has proved to be a national concern

cern of capital importance—the projecting the system of *canal navigation*.—The duke of Bridgewater, who had formed his design of carrying a canal from his coal-works at Worsley to Manchester, was induced by the reputation of Mr. Brindley to consult him on the execution of it; and having the sagacity to perceive, and strength of mind to confide in, the original and commanding abilities of this self-taught genius, he committed to him the management of the arduous undertaking. The nature and progress of this enterprise have already been described; it is enough here to mention, that Mr. Brindley, from the very first, adopted those leading principles in the projecting of these works, which he ever afterwards adhered to, and in which he has been imitated by all succeeding artists. To preserve as much as possible the level of his canals, and to avoid the mixture and interference of all natural streams, were objects at which he constantly aimed. To accomplish these, no labour and expense was spared; and his genius seemed to delight in overcoming all obstacles to them by the discovery of new and extraordinary contrivances.

The most experienced engineers upon former systems were amazed and confounded at his projects of aqueduct bridges over navigable rivers, mounds across deep vallies, and subterraneous tunnels; nor could they believe in the practicability of some of these schemes till they saw them effected. In the execution, the ideas he followed were all his own; and the minutest, as well as the greatest, of the expedients he employed, bore the stamp of originality. Every man of genius is an enthusiast. Mr. Brindley was an enthusiast in favour of the superiority of canal navigations above those of rivers; and this triumph of art over nature led him to view with a sort of contempt the winding stream, in which the lover of rural beauty so much delights. This  
fenti-

sentiment he is said to have expressed in a striking manner at an examination before a committee of the House of Commons, when on being asked, after he had made some contemptuous remarks relative to rivers, what he conceived they were created for :—he answered, “ To feed “ navigable canals.”—A direct rivalry with the navigation of the Irwell and Mersey, was the bold enterprize of his first great canal ; and since the success of that design, it has become common all over the kingdom to see canals accompanying with insulting parallel the course of navigable rivers.

After the successful execution of the duke of Bridgewater’s canal to the Mersey, Mr. Brindley was employed in the revived design of carrying a canal from that river to the Trent, through the counties of Chester and Stafford. This undertaking commenced in the year 1766 ; and from the great ideas it opened to the mind of its conductor, of a scheme of inland navigation which should connect all the internal parts of England with each other, and with the principal sea-ports, by means of *branches* from this main stem, he gave it the emphatical name of the *Grand Trunk*. In executing this, he was called upon to employ all the resources of his invention, on account of the inequality and various nature of the ground to be cut through : in particular, the hill of Harecastle, which was only to be passed by a tunnel of great length, bored through strata of different consistency, and some of them mere quicksand, proved to be a most difficult as well as expensive obstacle, which, however, he completely surmounted. While this was carrying on, a branch from the Grand Trunk to join the Severn near Bewdley was committed to his management, and was finished in 1772. He also executed a canal from Droitwich to the Severn ; and he planned the Coventry canal, and for some time superintended its execution, but



on account of some difference in opinion, he resigned that office. The Chesterfield canal was the last undertaking of the kind which he conducted, but he only lived to finish some miles of it. There was, however, scarcely any design of canal-navigation set on foot in the kingdom during the latter years of his life in which he was not consulted, and the plan of which he did not either entirely form, or revise and improve. All these it is needless to enumerate ; but as an instance of the vastness of his ideas, it may be mentioned, that on planning a canal from Liverpool to join that of the duke of Bridgewater at Runcorn, it was part of his intention to carry it by an aqueduct bridge across the Mersey, at Runcorn-gap, a place where a tide sometimes rising fourteen feet rushes with great rapidity through a sudden contraction of the channel. As a mechanic and engineer he was likewise consulted on other occasions ; as with respect to the draining of the low lands in different parts of Lincolnshire and the isle of Ely, and to the cleansing of the docks of Liverpool from mud. He pointed out a method which has been successfully practised, of building sea-walls without mortar ; and he was the author of a very ingenious improvement of the machine for drawing water out of mines by the contrivance of a losing and a gaining bucket.

The intensity of application which all his various and complicated employments required, probably shortened his days ; as the number of his undertakings, in some degree, impaired his usefulness. He fell into a kind of chronic fever, which, after continuing some years with little intermission, at length wore out his frame, and put a period to his life on September 27th, 1772, in the 56th year of his age. He died at Turnhurst, in Staffordshire, and was buried at New Chapel in the same county.

In appearance and manners, as well as in acquirements, Mr. Brindley was a mere peasant. Unlettered and rude of speech, it was easier for him to devise means for executing a design, than to communicate his ideas concerning it to others. Formed by nature for the profession he assumed, it was there alone that he was in his proper element; and so occupied was his mind with his business, that he was incapable of relaxing in any of the common amusements of life. As he had not the ideas of other men to assist him, whenever a point of difficulty in contrivance occurred, it was his custom to retire to his bed, where in perfect solitude he would lie for one, two, or three days, pondering the matter in his mind, till the requisite expedient had presented itself. This is that true *inspiration*, which poets have almost exclusively arrogated to themselves, but which men of original genius in every walk are actuated by, when from the operation of the mind acting upon itself, without the intrusion of foreign notions, they create and invent. A remarkably retentive memory was one of the essential qualities which Mr. Brindley brought to his mental operations. This enabled him to execute all the parts of the most complex machine in due order, without any help of models or drawings, provided he had once accurately settled the whole plan in his mind. In his calculations of the powers of machines, he followed a plan peculiar to himself; but, indeed, the only one he could follow without instruction in the rules of art. He would work the question some time in his head, and then set down the result in figures. Then taking it up in this stage, he would again proceed by a mental operation to another result; and thus he would go on by stages till the whole was finished, only making use of figures to mark the several results of his operations. But though, by the wonderful powers of native genius, he was thus enabled to get over his want of artificial method to a certain degree, yet there is no doubt, that

that when his concerns became extremely complicated, with accounts of various kinds to keep, and calculations of all sorts to form, he could not avoid that perplexity and embarrassment which a readiness in the processes carried on by pen and paper can alone obviate. His estimates of expense have generally proved wide of reality ; and he seems to have been better qualified to be the contriver, than the manager, of a great design. His moral qualities were, however, highly respectable. He was far above envy and jealousy, and freely communicated his improvements to persons capable of receiving and executing them ; taking a liberal satisfaction in forming a new generation of engineers able to proceed with the great plans in the success of which he was so deeply interested. His integrity and regard to the advantage of his employers were unimpeachable. In fine, the name of *Brindley* will ever keep a place among that small number of mankind, who form *eras* in the art or science to which they devote themselves, by a large and durable extension of their limits.



## P A R T II.

## ACCOUNTS OF PARTICULAR PLACES.

## 1.—LANCASHIRE.

## SALFORD HUNDRED.

## M A N C H E S T E R.

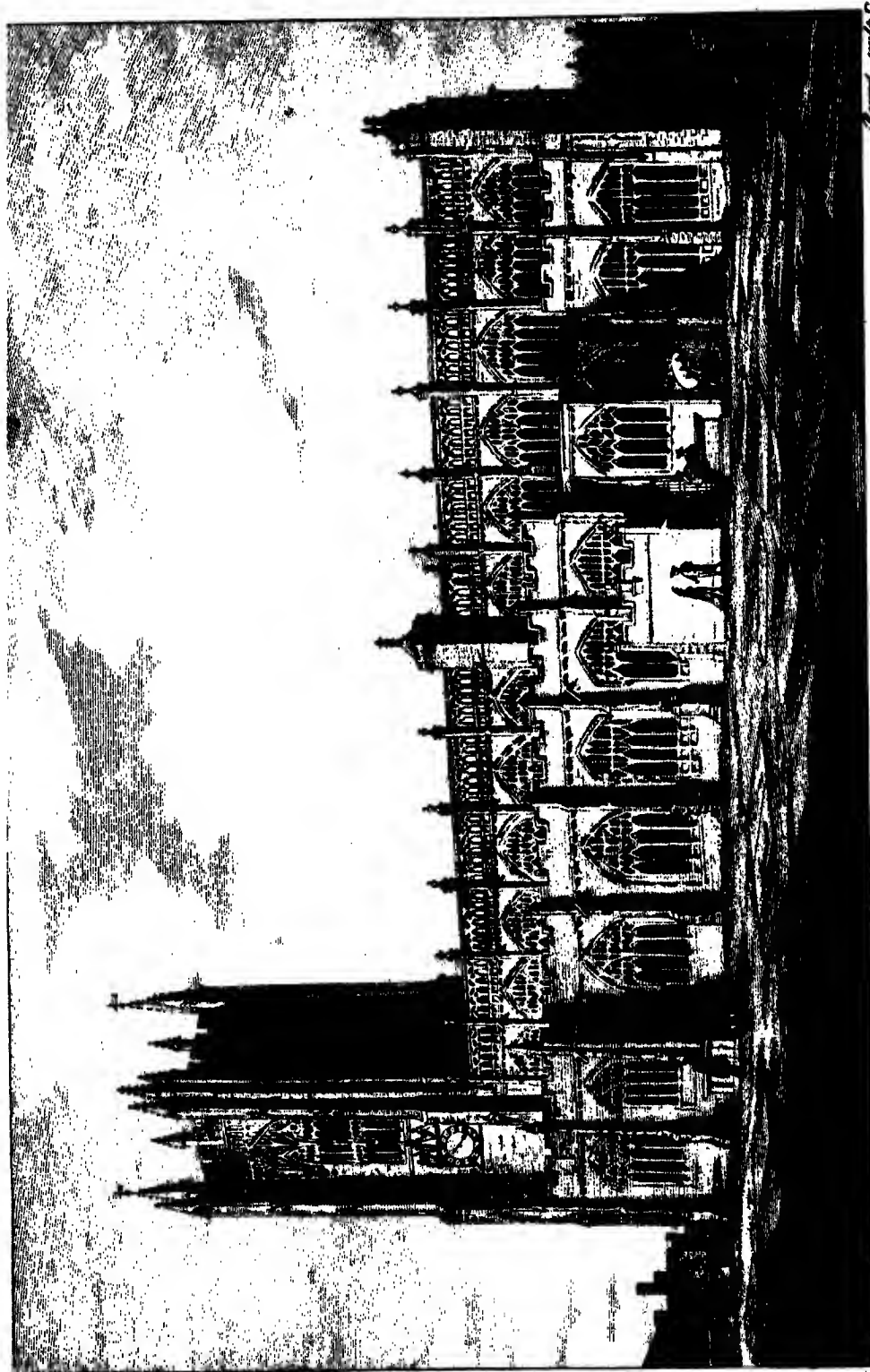
THIS distinguished town, one of the first with respect to commercial consequence in England, and the centre of our present undertaking, has been dignified by a very learned and ingenious historian of its earliest stages, the *Rev. Mr. Whitaker*. The elaborate work of that writer rather deserves, however, to be considered as an account of the state of this island in general, during its early periods, than as the history of a single town, then of little comparative consequence, and the principal events of which are rather to be deduced from inference, than to be laid down from authentic monuments or records. What alone appears certain is, that the Roman invaders of this country fixed a station for a body of troops in a place since called *Castlefield*, to which they gave the appellation of *Mancunium*, probably borrowed from a

name given it by the British inhabitants of the vicinity ;—that a town was raised in the neighbourhood of the station, probably on the site of the present *Aldporton*, where a castle was built, which had the name of *Mancaſtle* ; and that the erection of a parish church in the Saxon times drew round it a new town on the banks of the Irwell, the commencement of the present *Manchester*, and caused the old one to be deserted. Mr. Whitaker fixes the date of this new town to be A. D. 627.

In the Danish invasion and conquest of the kingdom of Northumberland, towards the latter end of the ninth century, Manchester, in common with many other towns, was totally or in great part destroyed. At this time it was a borough or city ; and about 920 it appears, that Edward king of the Mercians gave orders for the fortifying of the city of Manchester, and placing a garrison in it. Doomsday book mentions a church of St. Mary, and a church of St. Michael, as being in *Mamceſtre*, which it calls a manor or hundred. In 1301, Thomas Grelle granted to the burgesſes of Manchester a charter constituting it a free borough with certain privileges. This person was likewise patron of the church. In 1313 John de la Warr, knight, was lord of the manor and patron. The manor-house stood in or near the place where the college now stands, and was called Baron's court, or Baron's yard.

Thomas lord de la Warr, the last male heir of that family, who was first rector of Manchester, and then succeeded to the peerage, procured a license in the ninth year of Henry V. 1422, for founding a collegiate church at Manchester. The college consisted of a warden and eight fellows, of whom two were parish priests, two canons, and four deacons, two clerks and six choristers. The building of the house cost at that time 3000*l.* and to the value of twelve lordships were bestowed by  
the





VIEW OF CHRIST'S CHURCH.

*Hand sketch*

*E. Dwyer del.*







the founder on the college and to other pious uses. At that period the following list of prices of commodities is given, continuing to the year 1524.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
A horse, - - -	2	4	0	A calf, - - -	0	4	1
An ox, - - -	1	15	8	A cock, - - -	0	0	3
A cow, - - -	0	15	6	A hen, - - -	0	0	2
A colt, - - -	0	7	8	Wheat per quarter, -	0	11	3
A sheep, - - -	0	5	0	Ale per gallon, - -	0	0	2
A hog, - - -	0	5	0	Day labourer's wages,	0	0	3

About the time of the foundation of the college the present fabric of Christ's Church, usually called the Old Church, appears to have been erected. Who contributed most to the building is not certainly known; but the names and arms of the Stanleys, Wests, Radclyffes, Byroms, and others, witness their assistance. The church is a fine gothic structure, much ornamented with sculpture on the outside, and enriched with curious tabernacle-work over the stalls in the choir; with several chapels within, belonging to considerable families in the neighbourhood.

Manchester was now become a place of note. Cambden, speaking of the town in his time, mentions its having been famous in the last age for its manufacture of stuffs, called *Manchester cottons*, which were a species of *woollen* cloths. It is also recorded, that about 1520 there were three famous clothiers living in the north country, viz. Cuthbert of *Kendal*, Hodgeskins of *Halifax*, and Martin Brian (some say Byrom) of *Manchester*. Each of these kept a great number of servants at work, spinners, carders, weavers, fullers, dyers, shearmen, &c. This Martin is also related to have given much money towards the building

building of a free-school at Manchester; which institution, however, did not take place till some time after.

Leland, who travelled through the kingdom in the reign of Henry VIII. mentions *Mancestre* as “ the fairest, best-built, quickest, and  
 “ most populous town of Lancashire.” He says, “ It has but one  
 “ parish church, but that collegiate, and almost throughout double-  
 “ isled with very hard squared stone. There are several stone bridges  
 “ in the town, but the best, of three arches, is over the Irwell, di-  
 “ viding Manchester from Salford, which is a large suburb to Man-  
 “ chester. On this bridge is a pretty little chapel. The next is the  
 “ bridge over Hirke (Irk) river, on which the very fair-built college  
 “ stands. On this river are divers fair mills that serve the town. In  
 “ the town are two market-places.

Hugh Oldham, bishop of Exeter, a native of Oldham in Lancashire, who died in the year 1519, founded a free grammar-school in Manchester, and endowed it with certain lands, and a long lease which he had purchased of the corn mills of Manchester: and in 1524, Hugh Bexwick, clerk, and Joanna Bexwick, widow, made a full conveyance of the property of the said mills, lands, and tenements, to trustees for accomplishing the same purpose. In the ordinances concerning the school, it is directed, that no scholar or male infant of whatever country or shire be refused admission. The choice of the head-master and usher is vested in the President of Corpus Christi Coll. in Oxford for the time being, and on his default, in the warden of Manchester college.

Manchester having been originally a place of sanctuary, was one of the eight places to whom this privilege was confirmed by stat. 32 Hen. VIII.

A. D. 1540; but the next year, the privilege having been found prejudicial to the “wealth, credit, great occupings, and good order” of Manchester, was transferred to Chester, which (says the statute) had no such trade and merchandize, and had a strong goal, and a mayor, bailiffs, &c.

By an act of parliament in the first of Edward VI. the college of Manchester was dissolved, and the land and revenues belonging to it were taken into the king’s hand, and by him demised to Edward earl of Derby, who, however, took care to provide three or four ministers to officiate in the church. Queen Mary refounded the college, and restored almost all the lands, the earl of Derby still keeping the collegiate house and some small things.

A document concerning the trade of Manchester occurs in an act passed fifth and sixth of Edward VI. 1552, entitled, for the true making of woollen cloth; in which it is ordered, “That all the cottons called *Manchester*, *Lancashire*, and *Cheeshire* cottons, full wrought to the sale, shall be in length twenty-two yards, and contain in breadth three quarters of a yard in the water, and shall weigh thirty pound in the piece at the least. Also, that all other clothes called *Manchester rugs*, otherwise named *Manchester frizes*, fully wrought for sale, shall contain in length thirty-six yards, and in breadth three quarters of a yard coming out of the water, and shall not be stretched on the tenter or otherwise above a nail of a yard in breadth, and being so fully wrought and well dried, shall weigh every piece forty-eight pound at the least.”—From this it is clear that the Manchester cottons at that period were made of wool. An act passed in 1557 to amend

amend the above act, recites in the same terms the Manchester, Lancashire, and Cheshire manufactures.

In the eighth of Q. Elizabeth 1565, an act was passed respecting the fees of the queen's *Aulneger* (the officer appointed to examine and set the seal to manufactured cloth) for the county of Lancaster. In the preamble to this act it is recited, " That it has been a practice with  
 " divers clothiers inhabiting the said county, to send clandestinely  
 " out of it cottons, frizes, and rugs, without being previously sealed  
 " by the queen's Aulneger, and sometimes counterfeiting and setting  
 " to their clothes seals of their own." For the prevention of this, the towns of *Manchester*, *Rochdale*, *Bolton*, *Blackburn*, and *Bury*, are appointed, wherein the Aulneger is to have his deputies. His fees are regulated by the act, and the requisite length, breadth, and weight of the cottons, rugs, and frizes are determined.

In the twentieth year of Queen Elizabeth, A. D. 1578, a new foundation was given to the college by her Majesty, in which it is incorporated by the name of *Christ's Coll. in Manchester*, and made to consist of one warden priest, by degrees batchelor of divinity; four fellows, priests, batchelors of arts; two chaplains or vicars; four singing men, and four children; the warden to be appointed by the crown, the fellows and others to be elected by the warden and fellows. In the preamble to this foundation, the number of parishioners residing in the town of Manchester is asserted to be ten thousand.

In the year 1605, the town was visited by a pestilence, of which upwards of 1000 persons are said to have died.

The college having suffered great losses from mismanagement and usurpation of its revenues, was re-founded by king Charles I. in the year 1635. The chief alterations made by this foundation were to abridge the power of the wardens and augment that of the fellows, and to confine the power of granting leases to tenants to twenty-one years, instead of three lives as formerly. The fines which accrued for some time, were applied to the repairing and beautifying the church, which had become greatly dilapidated.

At the breaking out of the civil war in 1642, possession was taken of Manchester in behalf of the Parliament by the militia of the country, who were joined by many of the inhabitants and people of the vicinity ; and fortifications were thrown up at the end of the streets. At this time the town chiefly consisted of Market-street-lane, Dean's-gate, Miln-gate, and a few streets about the market-place. In September 1642, the earl of Derby marched from Warrington with a force of about 4000 foot and 300 horse, with seven pieces of ordnance, in order to seize upon Manchester for the King. On being refused admission, he commenced an assault upon the defenders from Salford and the end of Dean's-gate, which proving unsuccessful, he retired after a few days. This petty attempt, in which the town is said to have lost only four men killed and as many wounded, cannot but give a contemptible idea of the state of military skill in this island at the commencement of those troubles. In the next year the town was fortified and strongly garrisoned, and it continued in the hands of the Parliament during the remainder of the war.,

By an ordinance of Parliament dated 9th December, 1645, it appears that Manchester had for a long time been suffering under a pestilence,

so that for many months none had been permitted to come in or to go out. In consequence of this, (the ordinance says) “ most of the inhabitants living upon trade are not only ruined in their estates, but many families are like to perish for want, who cannot be sufficiently relieved by that miserable, wasted country.” On this account the Parliament orders that a collection be made for the poor of the said town in all the churches and chapels of London and Westminster; the money to be transmitted to Mr. John Hartley, of Manchester.

*A Description of the towns of Manchester and Salford* annexed to a plan of the towns taken about 1650, affords the following circumstances of information. It is to be observed, however, that the description is written in a very turgid style, abounding in terms of exaggeration.

The people in and about the town are said to be in general the most industrious in their callings of any in the northern parts of this kingdom. The town is a mile in length, the streets open and clean kept, and the buildings good. There are four market-places; two market days weekly, and three fairs yearly. The trade is not inferior to that of many cities in the kingdom, chiefly consisting in *woollen frizes, fustians, sack-cloths, mingled stuffs, caps, inkles, tapes, points, &c.* whereby not only the better sort of men are employed, but also the very children by their own labour can maintain themselves. There are besides, all kinds of foreign merchandize brought and returned by the merchants of the town, amounting to the sum of many thousands of pounds weekly. There are in the town forty-eight subsidy-men, besides a great number of burgesses; and four quarter-sessions are held in it. The town is governed by a steward, a head-borough, and two constables, with a deputy-constable, and several inferior officers; and great



commendation is given to the regular and orderly manner in which things are conducted. The parish is said to be at least twenty-two miles in compass, within which are eight chapels; and to contain above twenty-seven thousand communicants. This last number appears to be totally incredible.

The town was dismantled of its fortifications in 1652.

Humphrey Cheetham, Esq. of Clayton, by his will dated Dec. 16, 1651, founded and endowed an hospital and library in Manchester. The purpose of the hospital was to maintain and educate forty poor boys to the age of fourteen, when they were to be bound apprentice or otherwise provided for. They were to be elected out of various townships named in the will; and it is recommended to the trustees to purchase the old college for a place of residence for the children, and for the use of the library. For commencing the library, a thousand pounds are bequeathed to be expended in books; and the residue of his personal estate is given for the augmentation of the library. The college was accordingly purchased; and by a charter granted by Charles II. in 1665, the trustees of this noble charity were incorporated into a body politic.

What the increase of the town was during the latter part of the last century does not appear from any authentic documents; but probably it was not very considerable. From the register of the collegiate church, the average number of burials appears to have been;

From 1580 to 1587 inclusive, 184.

From 1680 to 1687 286.

From 1720 to 1727 359.

It was not till 1708 that an act passed for the erection of another church or chapel, St. Ann's. An account of the inhabitants taken in 1717 states them at 8000. From that period the increase has been rapid. An act for a third church, St. Mary's, was obtained in 1753. In 1757, on account of an application to Parliament in order to exonerate the town from the obligation of grinding its corn at the mills belonging to the free-school, which were now unable to supply its wants in a proper manner, two enumerations were made by the opposite parties, which came within 1000 of each other. The number most to be confided in, for Manchester and Salford conjointly, appears to have been 19,839.

In 1773 a survey of Manchester was executed with accuracy, which gave the following results :

	Manchester.	Salford.	Total.
Houses (inhabited -	3402	866	4268
Families, - - -	5317	1099	6416
Male inhabitants, -	10,548	2248	12,796
Female ditto, - -	11,933	2517	14,450
Both sexes, - - -	22,481	4765	27,246
Persons to a house, $6\frac{1}{2}$	To a family, $4\frac{1}{2}$ .		

At the same period, the township of Manchester (detached from the town) contained 311 houses, 361 families, 947 males, 958 females ; total, 1905.

And the whole parish of Manchester, comprizing thirty-one townships in a compass of sixty square miles, contained 2371 houses, 2525 families, 6942 males, 6844 females ; total, 13,786 inhabitants.

The

The whole number, then, of inhabitants in the town, township, and parish of Manchester, and in Salford, amounted to 42,927.

At Christmas 1788, the numbers by enumeration were, in the township of Manchester, 5916 houses, 8570 families, 42,821 persons; in the township of Salford, about 1260 houses. The whole number of people in both towns might then be reckoned at more than 50,000.

During the year 1791, the christenings in these towns amounted to 2960; the burials to 2286. These numbers, by the usual mode of calculating, will give from sixty-five to seventy-four thousand inhabitants—an increase almost unparalleled!

Having thus traced to the present period the progress of population in Manchester, we shall give a summary account of that of the trade and manufactures, by which the population is supported.

It has been seen that the original trade of this place was in those coarse woollen fabrics which were established in various parts of the north of England; but that, as long ago as the middle of last century, it was also noted for the making of fustians, mixed stuffs, and small wares. An original branch of the trade of Manchester was leather laces for women's boddices, shoe ties, and points for other uses, which were tagged like laces, and sold under the general denomination of *Congleton points*. These were slips of leather dyed various colours. Upon the introduction of Dutch looms, woven laces were substituted to these, and tagged in like manner. Inkle, tapes, and filleting, which had before been made in frames or single looms, were now like-

wife wrought in these new engines ; and coarse felts were made for country wear, but none of finer quality. Bolsters, bed-ticks, linc-girth-web, and boot-straps were manufactured here as early as 1700 ; but the west of England has long out-rivalled Manchester in ticks and webs, though it keeps its superiority in woollen webs. Sixty years since, upon the decline of ticks, the manufacturers in that branch took more to the making of coarse checks, striped hollands, and hooping, and some yellow canvas was then made. At the same time the silk branch was attempted in cherry-derrys and thread satins. Fustians were manufactured about Bolton, Leigh, and the places adjacent ; but Bolton was the principal market for them, where they were bought in the grey by the Manchester chapmen, who finished and sold them in the country. The fustians were made as early as the middle of last century, when Mr. Cheetham, who founded the blue-coat hospital, was the principal buyer at Bolton. When he had made his markets, the remainder was purchased by a Mr. Cooke, a much less honourable dealer, who took the advantage of calling the pieces what length he pleased, and giving his own price. The Manchester traders went regularly on market days to buy pieces of fustian of the weaver ; each weaver then procuring yarn or cotton as he could, which subjected the trade to great inconvenience. To remedy this, some of the chapmen furnished warps and wool to the weavers, and employed persons on commission to put out warps to the weavers. They also encouraged weavers to fetch them from Manchester, and by prompt payment and good usage endeavoured to secure good workmanship.

The kinds of fustian then made were herring-bones, pillows for pockets and outside wear, strong cotton ribs and barragon, broad-raced lin thicksets and tufts, [dyed, with whited diapers, striped dimities, and

and lining jeans. Cotton thicksets were made sometimes, but as frequently dropped for want of proper finishing. Tufts were much in demand at that time, and reached their full perfection, in respect to the price. The Irish were particularly fond of them, till some of the leading people there found means to get them out of use. When tufts ceased to be in demand, more figured goods were made for whiting, and a greater variety of patterns attempted, by weavers, who had looms ready mounted for the former purposes. But as figures made with treadles are confined to a scanty range, beyond which they grow too complicated, the workmen had recourse to the use of draw-boys, which gave name to a new and important branch of trade. Some yard-wides being made upon this plan were bought up with avidity, and great encouragement was given to the most ingenious weavers, and looms were mounted for them by their employers at a great expense. In the subsequent course of trade, great stocks of these draw-boys have come to lie on hand, and the article has met with great checks; yet the variety of figures it is capable of exhibiting, the distinctness of quality in the sorts, the many uses to which it is adapted, and its cheapness upon the whole, have rendered it a standing branch of trade; although quilting with draw-boys upon an improved plan invented above forty years since, counterpanes, and the various kinds of corded dimities lately introduced, have rivalled it.

About the time when draw-boys were first made, cotton velvets were attempted, and brought to some perfection in the manufacturing part; and cotton thicksets were well manufactured; but these wanted the present methods of dressing, bleaching, dying, and finishing, to give them the general perfection they have now obtained.

The manufacturers of check had by this time made great advances, and introduced new articles ; for as the coarse and narrow goods were chiefly made for sea use, or sent to the plantations abroad, upon the conclusion of a peace, or a glut of the foreign markets, the demands fell off ; whence the manufacturers made broader checks, besides the yard-wides of a finer and better quality, for home consumption. Gowns striped across with cotton in a variety of patterns and colours were introduced sixty years ago, and had a considerable run ; and silk was at last shot with the cotton, which gave them superior richness, and contributed to greater variety in the patterns. To these succeeded washing hollands, all cotton in the warp, which were a valued article, till yarn was mixed with the warp, and ruined their character. But the methods of hardening and stiffening single cotton, and the facility with which it had been wrought in these hollands, induced some capital houses about fifty years since, to undertake the manufacture of slight cotton goods for the African trade, upon a failure of imports from the East Indies. In this they succeeded, and had large demands, though they were afraid of a stock, since the East India Company could command the article, and sometimes gave them a check. But the Company seem to have given up the object ; and this branch of trade continued till the unhappy contest with America interrupted the intercourse with Africa.

An application of the lighter open striped checks to bed-hangings and window-curtains forty years since introduced the making of furniture checks, which have almost set aside the use of stuffs in upholstery. The use of soft coloured silk in striped gowns was followed by the introduction of it in warps for the several species of ginghams, damasks, merers, &c. The tying and dying of silk handkerchiefs is brought to great perfection, so as to imitate those imported from India ; and the  
variety

variety of printed handkerchiefs here, both cotton and linen, is scarcely to be enumerated.

The perfecting of silk handkerchiefs was owing to Mr. Richard Meadowcroft, who, in 1770, observing a poor family, that had usually been employed in the tying, destitute of work, found that the reason was, the want of dying them properly. Having a turn to chymistry, he made experiments till he produced fast colours in different shades of chocolate, and a colour approaching to scarlet, which he long kept to himself, and established the article to his own deserved emolument. The tying is now extended to fine callico, and silk with cotton handkerchiefs.

About the time that silk handkerchiefs began to be tyed for dying, velverets began to be stamped with gold spots and figures by the ingenuity of Mr. Mather, who had before that time contrived to get thick-sets dyed of one colour uncut, and after cutting, of another, which gave a novel appearance to the article. An attempt was made to stamp the pile of velverets in figures by heated rollers, as linseys and harra-teens had formerly been done for bed-furniture; but without success. The striping of callicoes by rollers, and printing them with copper-plates in the rolling-press has, however, succeeded.

The manufacture of hats has been as much improved at Manchester as any original branch of its trade. At first the felt-makers only wrought the coarse sheep's wool, and it was not till about sixty years since that they used the fine Spanish, or the goat's wool from Germany, or that from the Levant, which is a species of goat's wool, though commonly called camel's hair, or any of the furs called stuff. The

process of felting coarse wool is quite different from that of working these finer matters ; being, first to put the wool slightly together in a conical form, and then to boil it with common astringents of native growth ; whence it is now carried on in the country where such materials are at hand, by undertakers who have the wool from Manchester, and bring back the felts to be finished : but the manufactory of fine hats at Manchester is now inferior to none ; as the workmen early began to handle the fine wools, stuffs, and beaver, and are now perfect in the process of working them with beer grounds, spirits, &c. and are equally expert in dying and finishing blacks, while they have a decided superiority in fancy hats, in which they rather lead than follow the fashion. The linings have been glazed and cut here as long as forty years since, and now serve other manufactories besides those of Manchester. The looping is made in the swivel engines here, and other trimmings in the neighbourhood.

To the manufactory of laces, inkles, tapes, and filleting, was early added that of the divers kinds of bindings and worsted small wares ; but such has been the demand for English worsted of the best quality by the manufacturers of furniture checks and Turkey stripes, that the small-ware-makers were constrained to use Irish worsted, which, being cheaper, made them drop the prices : and the competition since has rather been in the cheapness than the goodness of the article. These furniture checks have grown into disrepute from the cockling of the worsted upon washing ; and the upholsterers now choose cotton stripes made on purpose, or prints with furniture patterns. White cotton binding, lace and fringe for curtains is now an article of extensive demand. As it was found that the Dutch enjoyed the manufacture of fine holland tapes unrivalled, plans were procured, and ingenious mechanics in-  
vited



vited over to construct swivel engines at a great expense, which have been employed in most branches of small wares with success. This manufacture alone, however, has not been sufficient to employ large capitals without the aid of some other branch, and the fustian trade has been added to it, first as an auxiliary, then as a principal.

The former deficiency as to finishing the cotton velvets and thicksets put the manufacturers upon several methods to remedy that defect ; all which, however, were imperfect, till the present mode of dressing was invented and brought to perfection, which not only contributed to the establishment of those articles to which it was applied, but soon raised velverets, which were made as a middle species between velvets and thicksets, to a rivalry with the former ; and gives to many other articles, both dyed and white, their highest degree of perfection. The fustian trade has also been improved by the addition of velveteens, fifteen years since, approaching nearer to real velvets than the velverets ; likewise strong and fancy cords.

The practice of dressing caused a revolution in the whole system of bleaching and dying. Before this time, the lighter drabs and fancy colours might be said rather to hang on the surface, than to be fixed in the substance of cotton goods. But the necessity of passing through the ordeal of dressing over glowing hot iron, caused them to employ more fixed drugs and astringents, with more powerful menstruums, in order to discharge the rustiness contracted by the fire ; in all which attempts they kept improving till dressing in the grey took place, and goods were brought to considerable perfection by alternate dressings and bleachings before they were dyed. Notwithstanding this improvement, the dyers found sufficient scope for their invention in the variety of pat-

terms they were encouraged to produce for pattern-cards, which now began to be circulated, not only through these kingdoms, but all over Europe; and the printing of many articles in the fustian branch gave a greater variety to these pattern-cards, while it afforded full employment for invention in dying grounds preparatory to them, and following the prints with other shades. Thus the art of printing here came to rival that of London, and that branch has in great measure been transferred from thence to the town and neighbourhood of Manchester.

A person to whom these improvements have been particularly owing, is Mr. John Wilson of Ainsworth. He was originally a manufacturer in the fustian branch in Manchester, and early engaged in the making of cotton velvets, which by unwearied efforts he brought to their utmost degree of perfection. By attending carefully to the instruction and superintendence of weavers, he soon brought that part of the manufacture to such perfection, that nothing could be added but an alteration of tabbies to Genoa backs, chained or otherwise. The dying and dressing, however, were still imperfect. Mr. Wilson used various means of rubbing and brushing the piles, clearing off the loose hairs with razors, and then burning them off with spirits of wine, in which operations many others began to engage equally with him. But he first began to dye them himself; at first in an experimental way at home, when firing off the pile with hot irons took place. These were first used upon blacks only, and were much like the weaver's drying irons, only of a rounder form, and were heated by stoves; and the person who first employed them was Mr. Whitlow, governor of the house of correction. This method saved the expense of spirits, and succeeded equally well.

Mr. Wilson having a turn for chymical inquiries, investigated the different known processes for dying, and found that those employed by the thread dyers were better adapted to fix black upon cotton, than those used by the fustian dyers. He found frequent washing and rinsing of great use in opening the pile to favour the new method of dressing. Resolving to give full scope to his improvements, he took a house and grounds at Ainsworth near Cockey-moor, and commenced a capital dresser, bleacher, and dyer, first and principally of his own goods, which he brought to such high perfection, as to acquire the highest character both at London and in foreign markets. Before he could bring his plans to full execution, he had persons articulated to him for seven years, and carefully taught all the various operations in the different departments; for none of the workmen previously employed in dressing, bleaching, or dying, would suit his purpose, on account of their attachment to the old methods. He continued the method of dressing by hand irons some time after the present one obtained of drawing them over red-hot cylinders, as there was less danger of firing or tearing the pieces; but he effectually opened and softened the pile by repeated operations of various kinds, finishing it quite upright, with a peculiar gloss and brightness, insomuch that pattern-card makers could at first sight distinguish slips of his working from all others.

Having succeeded to his satisfaction in dying the other rich colours, he procured from the Greek dyers of Smyrna the secret of dying Turkey red, which has been described at large in two essays read before the *Philosophical and Literary Society of Manchester*, which he printed and distributed among his friends after he had retired from business. This red he found required too tedious and expensive a process, less suited to manufactured goods, than to cotton in the skain; nor even suited to  
that

that spun upon the single spindles then in use, though it might be applicable enough to that spun on machines. The character Mr. Wilson's finishing had acquired was a great recommendation of velverets when they first came up, and induced the manufacturers to get most of the rich colours dyed by him. He was prevailed upon by much entreaty to dye some drabs, which he performed in such perfection, that the dyers of fancy drabs could only succeed in proportion as they followed his processes. The china blues that he dyed upon velvets and velverets were likewise of his own invention.

Several circumstances have occurred to fix the printing business here. A principal one was, that cotton greys and calicoes are manufactured in these parts; whence, by printing here, the former expense of land-carriage to London is saved. Further, the rent for bleaching grounds is here lower, and workmen can live cheaper. A succession of capital artists were thus induced to come down, who not only instructed others, but added to their former experience by printing upon grounds which the dyers followed with other shades. Hence there was a communication of methods and chymical secrets between printers and dyers, to the advantage of both parties. These improvements left the London printers no superiority but in light airy patterns, upon which those in Lancashire are making a considerable progress, while the large capitals employed in the business secure all the improvements that are made.

Mullins have been made to a great extent of late, and many printed ones; hence from a great demand both articles have been too slightly made, and have received a check.

The acquisition of these last branches, with the great increase of the export trade, have given such employment to large capitals here, that the interior business of the country is in great measure given up to the middle class of manufacturers and petty chapmen; but no exertions of the masters or workmen could have answered the demands of trade without the introduction of *spinning machines*.

These were first used by the country people on a confined scale, twelve spindles being thought a great matter; while the awkward posture required to spin on them was discouraging to grown up people, who saw with surprise children from nine to twelve years of age manage them with dexterity, whereby plenty was brought into families formerly overburthened with children, and the poor weavers were delivered from the bondage in which they had lain from the insolence of spinners. The following state of the case will explain this matter. From the time that the original system in the fustian branch, of buying pieces in the grey from the weaver, was changed, by delivering them out work, the custom of giving them out weft in the cops, which obtained for a while, grew into disuse, as there was no detecting the knavery of spinners till a piece came in woven; so that the practice was altered, and wool given with warps, the weaver answering for the spinning. And the weavers in a scarcity of spinning have sometimes been paid less for the weft than they gave the spinner, but durst not complain, much less abate the spinner, lest their looms should be unemployed. But when spinning-jennies were introduced, and children could work upon them, the case was reversed.

The plenty of weft produced by this means gave uneasiness to the country people, and the weavers were afraid lest the manufacturers

should demand finer weft woven at the former prices, which occasioned some risings, and the demolition of jennies in some places by the uninformed populace. At length Dornig Rasbotham, Esq. a worthy magistrate near Bolton, wrote and printed a sensible address to the weavers, in order to convince them of their own interest in encouraging these engines, which happily produced a general acquiescence in their use to a certain number of spindles. These were soon multiplied to three or four times the number; nor did the invention of mechanics rest here, for the demand for twist for warps was greater as weft grew more plentiful, whence engines were soon constructed for this purpose.

The improvements kept increasing, till the capital engines for twist were perfected, by which thousands of spindles are put in motion by a water wheel, and managed mostly by children, without confusion and with less waste of cotton than by the former methods. But the carding and slubbing preparatory to twisting required a greater range of invention. The first attempts were in carding engines, which are very curious, and now brought to a great degree of perfection; and an engine has been contrived for converting the carded wool to slubbing, by drawing it to about the thickness of candlewick preparatory to throwing it into twist. When these larger machines that moved by water were first set to work, they produced such excellent twist for warps, that they soon out-rivalled the warps made on the larger jennies, which had yielded good profits to the owners. In consequence of this, according to the usual short-sighted policy of narrow-minded and interested men, the country was excited against the water-machines, and some of them were demolished before protection could be obtained. Yet a little reflection would have shown the country people, that if more warps were made, there would be a greater demand for weft from  
their

their jennies, and a better price for it. This has since been fully experienced in the introduction of muslins ; for no contrivance in the other machines can make the thread hold when it is so slack thrown as to suit for weft ; nor can it be supposed that the attempt would be made, as the demand for twist for warps will fully employ them. For when cotton bears a reasonable price, the warps made of this twist will be as cheap as those made with yarn, and keep the money at home which used to be sent abroad for that article ; there being no comparison between yarn and cotton warps in goodness. In fact, cotton warps have lately been introduced to a great extent, where yarn had before been used. As these machines are now to be seen by the curious, and specifications of their construction may be had at the Patent office, no delicacy is necessary in laying descriptions of them fully before the public. We shall, therefore, attempt to give such an idea of them as can be communicated by words, beginning with the machine for carding cotton.

The spinners had begun to pick the husks of cotton seeds from their wool, and pass it through a lather of soap, preparatory to carding, before carding engines were invented ; and upon their introduction, the first operation was to pick and soap the wool, wring it out well from the lather, dry it, then spread a given quantity upon the feeder of a carding engine. This feeder was a coarse cloth, sewed together at the ends, and strained upon small rollers ; upon the cotton served by this feeder, a roller faced with tin punched through like a common grater, made a slow revolution, pinching up the cotton ; and the feeder, answering its motion, kept delivering more, while the vacant part of the cloth coming up was served with more cotton. Thus the cotton was delivered to sets of cylinders with cards nailed upon them ; as many

of these as had a revolution onward from the feeder, were governed by one strap, from the first mover, fixed on several pullies or whorles upon the spindles passing through the centres of those cylinders. Other cylinders had a contrary motion, to strip the cotton from those of the first description, delivering it to the next, in the direct motion onward to the largest cylinder of all, which received the cotton thoroughly carded by the inverse and direct revolutions of these intermediate cylinders.

An invention was necessary at the end of the motion, to take off the cardings, which was first attempted by a fluted roller put in motion by a strap from the inverse system of cylinders, which pressing upon the card teeth of the large cylinders, rubbed off the cardings, which fell into a receptacle below ; but these cardings were rubbed too close in the operation, and hence not so open for the purpose of spinning as could be wished. A most curious contrivance produced the remedy desired ; this was effected by casting a worm-like or spiral fluxion at the centre of the great wheel, which was fixed upon the cylinder to be divested of the cardings ; this spiral worm worked a small wheel upon a spindle which governed a tumbler by a crank, and threw a cross plate of metal garnished with small teeth against the cards at intervals, and took off the carding as open as could be wished.

This contrivance Mr. Arkwright claimed as his own invention till a verdict in the King's-Bench set aside his claim. This gentleman, knighted in the present reign for his ingenuity, is worthy of being celebrated for his industry in the early observations which he made of new inventions in carding and spinning, and his capacity in forming them into a perfect system in the twist machine, for which he obtained



a patent. But finding several improvements not in his first specification, he got it extended, and specified in particular the above invention to take off the cardings. Before this time he had sued several cotton spinners for an invasion of his patent. They joined issue with him, and in the event he was non-suited. On the extension of his patent, care being taken to specify the additional improvements, he instituted another suit for invasion of his patent, and obtained a verdict in the court of Common Pleas. This occasioned a great alarm among many who had at a great expense erected machines for cotton spinning, of whom an acknowledgement of so much a spindle was demanded under the threat of immediate suit. The persons concerned got the matter removed into the court of King's-bench, where, upon trial, it was proved that the apparatus above described for taking off the cardings was a prior invention of an ingenious mechanic, Mr. Heys by name, in consequence of which a verdict was given against Mr. Arkwright. In fact, the roller upon which Mr. Heys's spindle-strings ran was immediately adopted after his public exhibition of it; his contrivance also of slipping his handle from a square to a round, which checked the operation of spinning and pushing on to an interior contrivance to wind up the spin thread, is adopted in the machines for spinning of twist, which process we shall now describe.

The cotton for this purpose is of the first staple, but not too long grained; being beaten out to open the grain, it is picked very carefully, and the usual process pursued to the carding, with this difference, that instead of several cylinders, there is one only to take cotton wool from the pincher, and deliver it to a very large one, whence it is received by another, and stript by the tumbler, and carried to the server of others in rotation, till it rises from the last in a fine well-corded sheet. This

is kept from returning to the cylinder by the attendants; and being gently closed together, is conducted over a pulley high enough to make it fall by its own weight, as it is continually detached from the cards. A deep tin-can is set under, into which the carded wool coils itself, much resembling the wool drawn from Jersey combs: many of these tin-cans are in readiness to replace the filled ones, which are removed to serve a machine for roving, as the first operation of spinning is called; where the cardings of three cans put together are passed through rollers moved by clock-work, which also puts in motion small circular brushes to clear the loose flying hairs of cotton from the rollers; those deliver every three fleeces of carded cotton so connected, that when a can is emptied and another is supplied, care is taken that two whole fleeces preserve the continuity of the preparation for twisting, which passes from the rollers to spindles furnished with a curious apparatus to give it a very slight throw and wind it on bobbins in rovings. These undergo several courses of drawing by rollers and throwing, till it is wound upon bobbins in an open and even state, for the final operation of spinning by the machines for making twist.

These machines exhibit in their construction an aggregate of clock-maker's work and machinery most wonderful to behold. The cotton to be spun is introduced through three sets of rollers, so governed by the clock-work, that the set which first receives the cotton makes so many more revolutions than the next in order, and these more than the last which feed the spindles, that it is drawn out considerably in passing through the rollers; being lastly received by spindles, which have every one on the bobbin a fly like that of a flax wheel; both the flyers and the bobbin in like manner are loose on the spindle, which are whirled with amazing rapidity; but every bobbin resting upon a board, is checked

checked in its course, and only can wind up what twist is spun; and to avoid the inconvenience of winding it in ridges, as in flax-spinning, the board upon which they rest has an alternate motion, which raises and depresses the bobbins, so that the twist winds to and fro, the whole length of each bobbin. A considerable number of spindles may be wrought in one twisting frame, but they are connected in systems of four to each system, so that when a thread breaks, those four of the system to which it belongs may be stopped, while the others are twisting. This advantage is obtained by lifting that system from the square part of a spindle, which by a whorl from the machinery governed the four, to a round part above, which moves without giving motion to the system, till the thread is again connected with the prepared cotton, by pinching off what was unspun, and clapping it to the last roller, where it lays hold of the untwisted cotton, when that set on four is dropped again upon the square of the spindles, and the twisting goes on. Children are soon very dexterous at connecting broken ends with prepared cotton at the rollers, their small fingers being more active and endued with a quicker sensibility of feeling than those of grown persons; and it is wonderful to see with what dispatch they can raise a system, connect threads, and drop it again into work almost instantaneously.

Upon these machines twist is made of any fineness proper for warps; but as it is drawn length way of the staple, it was not so proper for weft; wherefore on the introduction of fine calicoes and muslins, mules were invented, having a name expressive of their species, being a mixed machinery between jennies and the machines for twisting, and adapted to spin weft as fine as could be desired, by adding to the jennies such rollers, governed by clock-maker's work, as were described above, only with this difference, that when the threads are drawn out, the

the motion of the rollers is suspended by an ingenious contrivance, till the weft is hardened and wound up; in which operation the spindles are alternately drawn from and returned to the feeding rollers, being fixed on a moveable frame like those of the billies to make cardings into what are called rovings for the common jennies.

These mules carry often to a hundred and fifty spindles, and can be set to draw weft to an exact fineness up to 150 hanks in the pound, of which muslin has been made, which for a while had a prompt sale; but the flimsiness of its fabric has brought the finer sorts into discredit, and a stagnation of trade damped the sale of the rest.

The worsted and woollen manufactories are alike benefited by improvements in carding and spinning, taken from the cotton machines, and adapted to their particular branches, which improvements make the work people uneasy till they experience that an increased sale of goods in proportion to improvements finds them employment, and that children, who had nothing to do before, earn wages by employment at the machines, whether employed in spinning woollen yarn, Jersey or cotton. Flax is now attempted by the same machinery, but the length of its staple in fine dressed flax may render it difficult to draw; yet the short hards dressed out of it may be spun this way evener and more compact than by the flax wheel, and what was too short for making yarn before, may now be wrought up, which will be good economy and lessen the imports.

The new-invented steam engines by a single cylinder closed above, pushing over water to an overshot-wheel, which returns to the reservoir, suppose a common pump-spring, were a great improvement,  
and

and employed to advantage as the application of machinery to several branches of business was extended. For by this means, there is less occasion for horses, and any power may be applied by enlarging the diameter of the cylinders, as one of twenty-four inches will force over more than sixty gallons at a stroke. This improvement, which is as simple as ingenious, was the invention of a common pump-maker, Wrigley by name, of this town, who never applied for a patent, but imparted freely what he invented to those who thought proper to employ him.\*

Some attempts have been made to work a number of looms together by machinery. The first was upon the introduction of swivel-looms, above thirty years since, by Mr. Gartside, with a capital water-wheel at his factory near Garret-hall, now a very large one for cotton spinning by water. Mr. Whitehead, the chief projector, and a partner, has there fixed a steam engine to return the water occasionally, and another fixed in a case of brick on the principle of those to quench fire; upon the least alarm of fire he can screw on his pipe, set the engine to work by the great wheel, and no deficiency of water can occur, the engine forcing up water from the mill-race, so that a single person can send a continued stream of water to any part of the factory or over it; a contrivance worthy to be adopted in all cotton spinning factories, where there is a powerful wheel and plenty of water, which is the case here: for Mr. Gartside spared no cost in his scheme of working swivel-looms

\* Raising water by steam-engines, and throwing it back into the mill-dam or reservoir was first practised about thirty-seven years since by the late Mr. Wilkinson, at Bertham-furnace, near Wrexham, by an engine of great magnitude which brought up the contents of the river as it were at one stroke. This engine shook the buildings and ground for a considerable distance, and required ten times more fuel than those at present constructed.

by water, and continued to employ them for a considerable time to very little advantage ; for one weaver was necessary to take care of a loom, and if the division where the shuttle ranges in any piece was clogged with knots in the warp or broken ends, the whole of a piece or a great part of it was liable to be cut down before a loom could be thrown out of gear ; but weavers who work a swivel-loom by the hand themselves, have a facility acquired by habit of checking the motion in such cases, returning back the shuttles from a half-shoot to prevent any misfortune.

Mr. Grimshaw of Gorton attempted the construction of machinery to weave piece goods, in a capital factory at Knott-mill, which was burnt down before any judgement could be formed how it would have succeeded.

The prodigious extension of the several branches of the Manchester manufactures has likewise greatly increased the business of several trades and manufactures connected with or dependent upon them. The making of paper at mills in the vicinity has been brought to great perfection, and now includes all kinds, from the strongest parcelling paper to the finest writing forts, and that on which banker's bills are printed. To the ironmongers shops, which are greatly increased of late, are generally annexed smithies, where many articles are made, even to nails. A considerable iron foundry is established in Salford, in which are cast most of the articles wanted in Manchester and its neighbourhood, consisting chiefly of large cast wheels for the cotton machines ; cylinders, boilers, and pipes for steam engines ; cast ovens, and grates of all sizes. This work belongs to Bateman and Sharrard, gentlemen every way qualified for so great an undertaking. Mr. Sharrard is a very ingenious and able engineer, who has improved upon and brought the

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the steam engine to great perfection. Most of those that are used and set up in and about Manchester are of their make and fitting up. They are in general of a small size, very compact, stand in a small space, work smooth and easy, and are scarcely heard in the building where erected. They are now used in cotton mills, and for every purpose of the water wheel, where a stream is not to be got, and for winding up coals from a great depth in the coal pits, which is performed with a quickness and ease not to be conceived.

Some few are also erected in this neighbourhood by Messrs. Bolton and Watts of Birmingham, who have far excelled all others in their improvement of the steam engine, for which they have obtained a patent, that has been the source of great and deserved emolument. The boilers are generally of plate iron or copper; but some few for the smaller engines are of cast iron.

There are five other iron foundries in Manchester, which do a great deal of business. In one of them Mr. Alexander Brodie of Carey Street, London, is concerned, who is well known for his very extensive manufactory of grates and stoves, as well for kitchens and dining rooms, as ships.\*

The quantity of pig iron used at the different foundries in Manchester within these few years, has been very great, and is mostly brought (by

\* The firms of the iron foundries are,

Bateman and Sharratt; Salford.

Brodie, M'Niven, and Ormrod; Manchester.

Smiths and Co. ditto.

Bassett and Smith, ditto.

Mrs. Phoebe Fletcher, ditto.

John Smith, ditto.

canal carriage) from Boatfield and Co.'s iron furnace, Old Park, near Coalbrook Dale; and Mr. Brodie's furnace, near the Iron Bridge, both in Shropshire.

The tin-plate workers have found additional employment in furnishing many articles for spinning machines; as have also the braziers in casting wheels for the motion-work of the rollers used in them; and the clock-makers in cutting them. Harness-makers have been much employed in making bands for carding engines, and large wheels for the first operation of drawing out the cardings, whereby the consumption of strong curried leather has been much increased.

We shall conclude this account of the trade of Manchester with some facts to show the rapid increase and prodigious amount of the cotton manufactures of this island, extracted from a pamphlet published in 1788, entitled, "An Important Crisis in the Callico and Muslin Manufacture in Great Britain, explained;" the purpose of which was to warn the nation of the bad consequences which would result from the rivalry of the East India cotton goods which then began to be poured into the markets in increased quantities, and at diminished prices.

The author asserts, that not above twenty years before the time of his writing, the whole cotton trade of Great Britain did not return £.200,000 to the country for the raw materials, combined with the labour of the people; and at that period, before the introduction of the water machinery and hand engines, the power of the single wheel could not exceed 50,000 spindles employed in spinning the cotton wool into yarn: but at the present moment, the power of spindles thus employed amounts



amounts to two millions; and the gross return for the raw materials and labour exceeds seven millions sterling. It was about the year 1784 that the expiration of Sir Richard Arkwright's patent caused the erection of water machines for the spinning of warps in all parts of the country, with which the hand engines for the spinning of weft kept proportion. At the time he wrote he estimates the number of

Water mills or machines, at - - - - - 143

Mule jennies or machines, consisting of 90 spindles  
each, - - - - - 550

Hand jennies of 80 spindles each, - - - - - 20,070

Of the water mills, 123 are in England, and nineteen in Scotland. Of those in England,

Lancashire has	- -	41	Cheshire, - - -	8
Derbyshire, - - -	22	Staffordshire, - -	7	
Nottinghamshire, -	17	Westmorland - -	5	
Yorkshire, - - -	11	Flintshire, - - -	3	

These establishments, when in full work, are estimated to give employment to about 26,000 men, 31,000 women, and 53,000 children, in spinning alone; and in all the subsequent stages of the manufacture, the number of persons employed is estimated at 133,000 men, 59,000 women, and 48,000 children; making an aggregate of 159,000 men, 90,000 women, and 101,000 children, in all, 350,000 persons, employed in the cotton manufacture.

The increase of raw material used, and goods made, is shown in the following lifts:

Cotton wool remaining in the country after exportation, in

				£.
1783	-	-	-	9,546,179
1784	-	-	-	11,280,238
1785	-	-	-	17,992,888
1786	-	-	-	19,151,867
1787	-	-	-	22,600,000

Gross value of cotton goods made, in

				£.
1783	-	-	-	3,200,000
1784	-	-	-	3,950,000
1785	-	-	-	6,000,000
1786	-	-	-	6,500,000
1787	-	-	-	7,500,000

The cotton imported for the manufactures in 1787 was of the follow-  
growths:

				£.
British islands estimated at	-	-	-	6,600,000
French and Spanish settlements	-	-	-	6,000,000
Dutch settlements	-	-	-	1,700,000
Portuguese ditto	-	-	-	2,500,000
East Indies, procured from Ostend	-	-	-	100,000
Smyrna or Turkey	-	-	-	5,700,000
				<hr/>
				22,600,000

The application of this cotton to the different branches of manufacture was supported by intelligent persons to have been as follows :

	lb.
To the candlewick branch - - -	1,500,000
To the hosiery ditto - - -	1,500,000
To silk and linen mixtures - - -	2,000,000
To the fustian branch - - -	6,000,000
To calicoes and muslins - - -	11,600,000
	22,600,000

The increase of value acquired by the raw material in the labour expended upon it in manufacturing, is generally from 1000 to 5000 per cent. By the dexterity of the spinners, specimens of yarn have been produced from East India cotton in which 205 hanks, weighing one pound, have been drawn out from two pounds of the raw cotton ; each of these hanks measures 840 yards, and the whole would reach near 100 miles.

To this sketch of the progress of the *trade* of Manchester, it will be proper to subjoin some information respecting the condition and manners of its *tradesmen*, the gradual advances to opulence and luxury, and other circumstances of the domestic history of the place, which are in reality some of the most curious and useful subjects of speculation on human life. The following facts and observations have been communicated by an accurate and well-informed inquirer.

The trade of Manchester may be divided into four periods. The first is that, when the manufacturers worked hard merely for a livelihood,

hood, without having accumulated any capital. The second is that, when they had begun to acquire little fortunes, but worked as hard, and lived in as plain a manner as before, increasing their fortunes as well by economy as by moderate gains. The third is that, when luxury began to appear, and trade was pushed by sending out riders for orders to every market town in the kingdom. The fourth is the period in which expense and luxury had made a great progress, and was supported by a trade extended by means of riders and factors through every part of Europe.

It is not easy to ascertain when the second of these periods commenced; but it is probable that few or no capitals of 3000*l.* or 4000*l.* acquired by trade, existed here before 1690. However, towards the latter end of the last century and the beginning of the present, the traders had certainly got money beforehand, and began to build modern brick houses, in place of those of wood and plaster. For the first thirty years of the present century, the old established houses confined their trade to the wholesale dealers in London, Bristol, Norwich, Newcastle, and those who frequented Chester fair. The profits were thus divided between the manufacturer, the wholesale, and the retail, dealer; and those of the manufacturer were probably (though this is contrary to the received opinion) less per cent. upon the business they did, than in the present times. The improvement of their fortunes was chiefly owing to their economy in living, the expense of which was much below the interest of the capital employed. Apprentices at that time were now and then taken from families which could pay a moderate fee. By an indenture dated 1695 the fee paid appears to have been sixty pounds, the young man serving seven years. But all apprentices were obliged to undergo a vast deal of laborious work, such as turning  
warping

warping mills, carrying goods on their shoulders through the streets, and the like. An eminent manufacturer in that age used to be in his warehouse before six in the morning, accompanied by his children and apprentices. At seven they all came in to breakfast, which consisted of one large dish of water-pottage, made of oat-meal, water, and a little salt, boiled thick, and poured into a dish. At the side was a pan or bason of milk, and the master and apprentices, each with a wooden spoon in his hand, without loss of time, dipped into the same dish, and thence into the milk pan; and as soon as it was finished they all returned to their work. In George the First's reign many country gentlemen began to send their sons apprentices to the Manchester manufacturers; but though the little country gentry did not then live in the luxurious manner they have done since, the young men found it so different from home, that they could not brook this treatment, and either got away before their time, or, if they staid till the expiration of their indentures, they then, for the most part, entered into the army or went to sea. The little attention paid to rendering the evenings of apprentices agreeable at home, where they were considered rather as servants than pupils, drove many of them to taverns, where they acquired habits of drinking that frequently proved injurious in after life. To this, in part, is to be attributed the bad custom of gilling, or drinking white wine as a whet before dinner, to which at one period a number of young men fell a sacrifice.

When the Manchester trade began to extend, the chapmen used to keep gangs of pack-horses, and accompany them to the principal towns with goods in packs, which they opened and sold to shop-keepers, lodging what was unsold in small stores at the inns. The pack-horses brought back sheep's wool, which was bought on the journey, and  
fold

sold to the makers of worsted yarn at Manchester, or to the clothiers of Rochdale, Saddleworth, and the West-Riding of Yorkshire. On the improvement of turnpike roads waggons were set up, and the pack-horses discontinued; and the chapmen only rode out for orders, carrying with them patterns in their bags. It was during the forty years from 1730 to 1770 that trade was greatly pushed by the practice of sending these riders all over the kingdom, to those towns which before had been supplied from the wholesale dealers in the capital places before mentioned. As this was attended not only with more trouble, but with much more risk, some of the old traders withdrew from business, or confined themselves to as much as they could do on the old footing, which, by the competition of young adventurers, diminished yearly. In this period strangers flocked in from various quarters, which introduced a greater proportion of *young* men of some fortune into the town, with a consequent increase of luxury and gaiety. The fees of apprentices becoming an object of profit, a different manner of treating them began to prevail. Somewhat before 1760, a considerable manufacturer allotted a back-parlour with a fire for the use of his apprentices, and gave them tea twice a day. His fees in consequence rose higher than had before been known, from 250*l.* to 300*l.*; and he had three or four apprentices at a time. The highest fee known as late as 1769, was 500*l.* Within the last twenty or thirty years the vast increase of foreign trade has caused many of the Manchester manufacturers to travel abroad, and agents or partners to be fixed for a considerable time on the Continent, as well as foreigners to reside at Manchester. And the town has now in every respect assumed the style and manners of one of the commercial capitals of Europe.

Some other anecdotes respecting the manners of the place in the last age may prove amusing from comparifon, however trivial in their own nature.

About the year 1690 there was a great quarrel between the mafter and fcholars of the grammar-fchool. The boys locked themfelves in the fchool, and were fupplied by the town's people with victuals and beds, which were put in at the windows. They even got fire arms and ammunition, which they employed in firing at the legs of perfons who attempted to get in. This petty rebellion continued a fortnight, fomewhat to the difgrace of thofe who ought to have exerted a better difcipline.

In 1693, a manufacturer, being in London, learned that one of his customers, a mercer in Manchester, was bound in a large fum for a Londoner who was expected to break : he thereupon prudently wrote to his wife to go and dun the mercer, adding, “ if thou canft not get “ money, take goods—thou mayft buy thyfelf a filk manteau and pet- “ ticoat.” For a fenfible and frugal man, who fet out with very little capital, to fend fuch an order to his wife, proves that thofe articles of finery were not at that time very uncommon.

In a manufacturer's private expenfe-book, under the date 1700, are different fums paid for two of his daughters who were at London in the houfe of a perfon who managed a warehoufe for him. Among the reft is paid for a fpinet, 5*l.* 3*s.* 0*d.* In the fame book, in 1701, is paid 26*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* for a journey to Scarborough, and hire of a coach 13*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* This was the fea-bathing place of the time, for the journey was on account of a child five years old who died there ; and

at her funeral, though so young, there was paid for gloves 2*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.* When this reputable person went to London, his constant annual luxuries were Brunswick mum, beer, and tobacco. In the expenses for 1702 there is a charge, for the first time, of ten shillings for coffee and tea. His house rent was forty pounds per annum, perhaps including his warehouse. For several years, ten shillings a quarter is put down for *chapel wages*, or his subscription to the dissenting meeting-house. In 1704 is five pounds for an afs; an enormous price for the time, from which it is probable that few were then bred near Manchester. For the same year is 2*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.* for a perriwig, but this was preparatory to a wedding, and double the price of those charged before. This was an expensive piece of finery for such frugal times.

A proof of the early hours then kept appears in the following fact: In 1705 a manufacturer married a physician's daughter who had been genteelly educated and kept a good deal of company. The hour of afternoon visiting was then *two o'clock*, so that for some years after her marriage, she had always finished her visit soon enough to go to the Old Church prayers at four. They then dined at twelve; and there being no such thing as a hair-dresser, it was easy to be ready for visiting at two.

In 1708 the act passed for building St. Ann's church, which in a few years was followed by the square and streets adjoining, where was displayed a new style of light and convenient rooms, very different from those in the rest of the town. The front parlours however were reserved for company only; and the family usually lived in the back parlours. This fashion continued to our own times, and in small houses, subsists in some degree at present. The great sums of money



brought into circulation by the wars and taxes in queen Ann's reign, and by the subsequent commercial speculations, must have rapidly forwarded the progress of luxury in Manchester. Lady Bland of Hulme, who was herself a great heiress, and had married a gentleman of large fortune, was then the chief promoter of whatever could embellish the town, or polish the taste of its inhabitants. She had subscribed liberally to the building of St. Ann's church, and the initials of her name were put upon the cover of the communion table. A few years afterwards she was the principal patroness of a dancing assembly; and a handsome room for the purpose was erected upon pillars, leaving a space beneath to walk in. This was in the middle of the new fashionable street called King-street, and opened a convenient passage to the new church-yard. The assembly was held once a week at the low price of half a crown a quarter; and the ladies had their maids to come with lanthorns and pattens to conduct them home; nor was it unusual for their partners also to attend them. Lady Bland was of a cheerful disposition, and so fond of young company, that she had frequent balls in her hall at Hulme, and often, when an old woman, danced in the same set with her grandson.

About 1720 there were not above three or four carriages kept in the town. One of these belonged to a Madam D—— in Salford. This respectable old lady was of a sociable disposition, but could not bring herself to conform to the new-fashioned beverage of tea and coffee; whenever, therefore, she made her afternoon's visit, her friends presented her with a tankard of ale and pipe of tobacco. A little before this period a country gentleman had married the daughter of a citizen of London: she had been used to tea, and in compliment to her it was introduced by some of her neighbours; but the usual afternoon's

entertainment at gentlemen's houses at that time was wet and dry sweetmeats, different sorts of cake and gingerbread, apples, or other fruits of the season, and a variety of home-made wines. The manufacture of these wines was a great point with all good house-wives both in the country and the town. They made an essential part of all feasts, and were brought forth when the London or Bristol dealers came down to settle their accounts and give orders. A young manufacturer about this time having a valuable customer to sup with him, sent to the tavern for a pint of foreign wine, which next morning furnished a subject for the sarcastic remarks of all his neighbours. In order to perfect young ladies in what was then thought a necessary part of their education, a pastry-school was set up in Manchester, which was frequented, not only by the daughters of the town's-people, but those of the neighbouring gentlemen. At this time there was a girl's boarding-school; and also a dancing-master, who, on particular occasions, used to make the boys and girls parade two by two through some of the streets; a display which was not very pleasing to some of the bashful youths of that day.

About this period there was an evening club of the most opulent manufacturers, at which the expenses of each person were fixed at four-pence halfpenny, viz. four-pence for ale, and a halfpenny for tobacco. At a much later period, however, a six-pennyworth of punch, and a pipe or two, were esteemed fully sufficient for the evening's tavern amusement of the principal inhabitants.\*

Annual

\* As a proof that even at the *present day* strong features of ancient manners exist here, we shall copy the following anecdote lately communicated :

There now resides in the market place of Manchester, a man of the name of John Shawe, who keeps a common public house, in which a large company of the respectable  
Manchester

Annual horse-races at Kerfal-moor were established about 1730. A serious dissuasive against them was published in a pamphlet printed at Manchester in 1733, the writer of which was probably the celebrated Mr. Byrom. Several circumstances relative to the town and neighbourhood are mentioned in it; particularly, that even the dancing assembly, though from the testimony of this writer conducted with the utmost decorum, was then considered as an improper place for a clergyman to appear at; bishop Peploe, warden of Manchester college, having thought fit to inhibit his clergy from attending it as derogatory from the gravity becoming their characters. The races were however continued till about the year 1745, when they were laid aside for several years; but afterwards revived, and are annually held in Whitsun-week to the present day, probably not without much injury to such a populous and manufacturing country. By the thoughtlessness of the young people frequenting this diversion, who make a practice of riding races

Manchester tradesmen meet every day after dinner, and the rule is to call for sixpenny-worth of punch. Here the news of the town is generally known. The high change at Shawe's is about six; and at eight o'clock every person must quit the house, as no liquor is ever served out after that hour; and should any one be presumptuous enough to stop, Mr. Shawe brings out a whip with a long lash, and proclaiming aloud, "Past eight o'clock, Gentlemen!" soon clears his house.

For this excellent regulation Mr. Shawe has frequently received the thanks of the ladies of Manchester, and is often toasted; nor is any one a greater favourite with the townsmen than this respectable old man. He is now very far advanced in life, we suppose not much short of 80, and still a strong, stout, hearty man. He has kept strictly to this rule for upwards of fifty years, accompanied by an old woman servant for nearly the same length of time.

It is not unworthy of remark, and to a stranger is very extraordinary, that merchants of the first fortunes quit the elegant drawing room, to sit in a small dark dungeon, for this house cannot with propriety be called by a better name—but such is the force of long-established custom!

to their respective homes, many melancholy accidents annually happen, and many lives are lost.

In 1710, a manufacturer taking his family up to London hired a coach for the whole way, which, in that state of the roads, must probably have made it a journey of eight or ten days. And in 1742, the system of travelling had so little improved, that a lady wanting to come with her niece from Worcester to Manchester, wrote to a friend in the latter place to send for her a hired coach, because the man *knew the road*, having brought from thence a family some time before, and also because he travelled on cheaper terms than the Worcester hired coaches.

We are not inclined to enter into the party-history of Manchester, unfortunately too copious a topic. But it seems proper to mention, that in 1730-1 a violent parliamentary contest was carried on between the whigs and tories respecting a workhouse, the general plan of which seems to have been judiciously laid, and to have met with universal concurrence, but the *management* would by the proposed bill have been thrown almost entirely into the hands of the whigs. These, though supported by the ministry at that time, met with a defeat, and the scheme fell through. Neither can the effects of the last rebellion be totally passed over, which infused such a spirit of party-rancour, that the pleasures of society were greatly interrupted by it. From some quarrels that arose in the assembly between the people of the town and the officers quartered there, the whigs made a secession, and two dancing assemblies were for some years kept up with spirit; till the patriotic administration of the great William Pitt having made an union of parties, the whigs returned to their old room.

In the year 1750, there was a stand of hackney-coaches in St. Ann's square; but these vehicles being found less convenient for some purposes than sedan chairs, the latter took place of them, and few country towns have been better supplied with them. Some persons who had quitted trade began to indulge in the luxury of a chaise of their own to take an airing; but it was not till 1758 that any person actually in business set up a carriage.

Manchester has long been famous for a pack of remarkably large hounds, which the learned Mr. Whitaker conceives to be the true breed of old British hounds, once general to the kingdom, though latterly confined to a small tract of the north-western part of it. A pack of a smaller breed has also for many years been kept there; and the pleasures of the chase have been ardently pursued by many of the inhabitants.

We shall conclude this article with some further particulars of the *present state* of Manchester.

With respect to *government*, it remains an open town, destitute (probably to its advantage) of a corporation, and unrepresented in parliament. Its municipal officers are a borough-reeve and two constables, elected annually in October at the court leet. The borough-reeve is an officer almost peculiar to this place, and who seems formerly to have been the chief magistrate; but at present his proper office is the distribution of certain charities, though in point of rank he is considered as the first man at all public meetings, and takes the chair. The constables are the real executive officers.

Manchester and Salford, in several streets and the market place, bear great marks of antiquity, as there are still standing nearly whole streets of houses built of wood, clay, and plaister.

The new streets built within these few years have nearly doubled the size of the town. Most of them are wide and spacious, with excellent and large houses, principally of brick made on the spot; but they have a flight of steps projecting nearly the breadth of the pavement, which makes it very inconvenient to foot passengers. When two people meet one must either go into the horse road, or over the flight of steps, which in the night time is particularly dangerous, as the lamps are not always lighted. In the first year after obtaining the act for lighting and paving the town, a considerable debt was incurred. On this account, Manchester was, as before the act, in total darkness; but by receiving the money and using no oil, the fund has recovered itself and the town is now well lighted. But very few of the streets are yet flagged, which makes the walking in them, to strangers, very disagreeable. There is little doubt but this will in a short time be remedied, and the great ugly projecting flight of steps to the houses taken down. As Manchester may bear comparison with the metropolis itself in the rapidity with which whole new streets have been raised, and in its extension on every side towards the surrounding country; so it unfortunately vies with, or exceeds, the metropolis, in the closeness with which the poor are crowded in offensive, dark, damp, and incommodious habitations, a too fertile source of disease! The mischievous effects proceeding from this cause are so clearly stated, and the remedies so ably suggested, in a paper addressed by Dr. Ferriar to the Committee for the regulation of the police in Manchester, that we are persuaded

we shall do an useful service in making it more extensively known by reprinting the most material parts of it.\*

The new churches are noble buildings, and most of them constructed at great expense, chiefly of free-stone brought by the duke of Bridgewater's canal. Some of the dissenting meeting houses also are well built and very large.

The number of churches and chapels of the establishment in Manchester and Salford, actually built and building, amount to twelve; and

\* 1. In some parts of the town, cellars are so damp as to be unfit for habitations; such places should be reported to the Commissioners, by whom proper representations may be made to the owners, that the cellars may be appropriated to other purposes. I have known several industrious families lost to the community, by a short residence in damp cellars.

2. The poor often suffer much from the shattered state of cellar windows. This is a trifling circumstance in appearance, but the consequences to the inhabitants are of the most serious kind. Fevers are among the most usual effects; and I have often known consumptions which could be traced to this cause. Inveterate rheumatic complaints, which disable the sufferer from every kind of employment, are often produced in the same manner. This source of disease may be expected to admit of easy removal, for it cannot be the interest of the proprietor of a cellar to have his tenants constantly sick.

3. I am persuaded, that mischief frequently arises, from a practice common in many narrow back streets, of leaving the vaults of the privies open. I have often observed, that fevers prevail most in houses exposed to the effluvia of dunghills in such situations.

In a house in Bootle Street, most of the inhabitants are paralytic, in consequence of their situation in a blind alley, which excludes them from light and air. Consumptions, distortion, and idiocy, are common in such recesses.

4. In Blakeley Street, under No. 4, is a range of cellars let out to lodgers, which threaten to become a nursery of diseases. They consist of four rooms, communicating with each other, of which the two centre rooms are completely dark; the fourth is very

and there are about as many places of worship for different sects of dissenters. By improvements in the revenues of Cheetham's hospital, the number of boys now educated in it is eighty. The public library, which was a part of this foundation, has now a very valuable collection of books in all sciences and languages, amounting to the number of 10,000. By the last statement of the rents and

ill lighted; and chiefly ventilated through the others. They contain from four to five beds in each, and are already extremely dirty.

5. The lodging houses, near the extremities of the town, produce many fevers, not only by want of cleanliness and air, but by receiving the most offensive objects into beds, which never seem to undergo any attempt towards cleaning them, from their first purchase till they rot under their tenants. The most fatal consequences have resulted from a nest of lodging houses in Brook's entry, near the bottom of Long-mill-gate, a place which I beg leave to recommend to the serious attention of the Committee. In those houses, a very dangerous fever constantly subsists, and has subsisted for a considerable number of years. I have known nine patients confined in fevers at the same time, in one of those houses, and crammed into three small, dirty rooms, without the regular attendance of any friend, or of a nurse. Four of these poor creatures died, absolutely from want of the common offices of humanity, and neglect in the administration of their medicines. In some other houses in the same nest, I have known a whole swarm of lodgers exposed to infection by the introduction of a fever patient, yet so far insatuated, as to refuse to quit the house till all of them have been seized with the disorder. It must be observed, that persons newly arrived from the country are most liable to suffer from these causes, and as they are often taken ill within a few days after entering an infected house, there arises a double injury to the town, from the loss of their labour, and the expense of supporting them in their illness. A great number of the home-patients of the Infirmary are of this description. The horror of those houses cannot easily be described; a lodger fresh from the country often lies down in a bed, filled with infection by its last tenant, or from which the corpse of a victim to fever has only been removed a few hours before.

6. The best method, perhaps, of giving an effectual check to these evils, would be to oblige all persons letting lodgings to take a license, and to limit them in the number of their lodgers. By the terms of the license, they might also be obliged to white-wash their houses twice a year, which is a powerful method of preventing infection. When a fever



and other income of the Free-school, (including improvements to take place in 1794) the total amount was 2448*l.* from which all expenses and deductions of every kind, amounting to 1079*l.* being taken, the capital sum of 1369*l.* is left for future advantages in the literary education of the natives of this town. At the time of the statement, there were one upper, and one under master, two assistants,

appears in a house full of lodgers, all who are uninfected should be immediately removed to a clean house, and their clothes should be washed and scoured. When the fever has ceased, the bed-clothes and curtains of the infected room ought to be scoured, or otherwise cleaned, and a fresh application of white-washing should be made. With proper care, indeed, the worst kind of fever may be confined to the patient's room, without danger to the rest of the family; but no dependance can be placed on the conduct of the persons to whom I allude.

When the sick are destitute of beds, they should be supplied by the town. It is obvious, that fevers, slight in their commencement, must be greatly aggravated, and must often become dangerous, when the patient lies on a few rags, in a cold garret, or damp cellar.

7. This plan would require the appointment of Inspectors of lodging-houses, whose business it would be to visit houses which should be reported to them as infected, either by the neighbours, or by any medical gentleman, under whose observation such places should fall. They should be empowered to take proper steps for checking infection wherever it appears, and occasional inquiries might be made, respecting the compliance of persons letting lodgings with the condition of their licenses. This would answer a very desirable purpose respecting the police, independent of the advantages proposed regarding health. The keepers of the lodging houses might be required to give an account of the name and occupation of every lodger whom they receive, and to become responsible, to a certain degree, for the truth of these reports. By this means, a constant check might be maintained on houses, which at present are the refuge of the most profligate and dangerous part of society.

8. There is a practice, very common in small new buildings, which ought to be discouraged; that of putting up fixed windows without casements. Some part, if not the whole of the window should always be moveable; especially where there is but a single window in the room. From the want of such a regulation, I have been often obliged to order several panes to be taken out of the window of a fever-room, to obtain a tolerable degree of ventilation.

sistants, an English master, and eight exhibitors at the university. Such of the scholars as are entered of Brazen-nose Coll. Oxon. have also a chance of obtaining some valuable exhibitions arising from lands in Manchester bequeathed by Mr. Hulme.

In 1786 an Academy was established in Manchester, chiefly by subscriptions among the dissenters, for the education of youth in the higher branches of literature, which has continued to flourish under able and attentive tutors.

No town in England has been more exemplary in the number and variety of its charitable institutions, and the zeal by which they have been supported—a zeal in which all ranks and parties have united.

9. It is sometimes difficult to prevent the master of a lodging-house from turning a patient out of doors, in the height of a fever, when he apprehends that his other lodgers will desert him. Some interposition of authority should take place, in such cases, both for the sake of humanity, and to prevent the unfortunate patient from spreading the disease into a fresh house.

10. When a house is infected in every room, a nurse should be provided, on whom dependance can be placed, to prevent unnecessary visits from neighbours and acquaintances. About two years ago, a fever of the worst kind was carried from a lodging-house in Salford, where it had attacked all the inhabitants, to another in Milk Street, near the Infirmary, where it seized several persons, in consequence of a thoughtless visit made by an acquaintance lodging in Milk Street. In this way, fevers are sometimes introduced among the servants in opulent families.

11. The prevalence of fevers among persons employed in cotton mills, might be lessened by an attention on the part of the overseers to the following circumstances, besides a due regard to ventilation. Personal cleanliness should be strongly recommended and encouraged; and the parents of children so employed, should be enjoined to wash them every morning and evening, to keep their shoes and stockings in good condition, and above all, never to send them to work early in the morning without giving them food.

It is greatly to be wished, that the custom of working all night could be avoided. The continuance of such a practice cannot be consistent with health, and I am glad to find that it does not prevail universally.

The charities annually distributed by the Borough-reeve are the following, according to the statement printed by Mr. Thomas Walker, when he served that office in 1792.

### CHARITIES, commonly called THE BOROUGH-REEVE'S CHARITIES.

#### The late Mr. MARSHALL'S Charity.

For the relief of “ *the poor, aged, needy, and impotent Inhabitants of the Town of Manchester,*” was bequeathed in the year 1624, and consisted of buildings and lands situated in Manchester, which in the year 1750, produced only twelve pounds per annum. This property was sold in 1781 to the Commissioners under an Act of Parliament for Improving certain Streets in the Town of Manchester; with the money arising from which sale, 2250*l.* stock in the three per cent. Consolidated Annuities was purchased, which yields annually 67*l.* 10*s.*

#### The late Mr. CLARKE'S Charity.

For the relief of “ *the poor, aged, needy, and impotent Inhabitants of the Town of Manchester,*” was given by deed dated the 13th of December, 1636, when the whole income was 100*l.* per annum—the neat proceeds the last year were 320*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* arising principally from lands in Crumpsall, and buildings in Manchester.

#### The late Mr. SHUTTLEWORTH'S Charity.

The interest of fifty pounds to be given about Christmas, in linen cloth, “ *to poor Persons inhabiting Deansgate.*” The principal is

now

now in the hands of Mr. Edward Place, and produces annually 2*l.* 10*s.*—This bequest was made in the year 1696.

The late Mrs. BENT's Charity.

The interest of fifty pounds to be given “ *to poor Housekeepers in Manchester, who are not chargeable to the Town,*” was bequeathed the 31st of December, 1773.—The principal is now in the hands of the executors of the late Rev. Humphrey Owen, and produces annually 2*l.* 10*s.*

At the same time, Mrs. Bent left the interest of fifty pounds, which is likewise in the hands of the executors of the late Rev. Humphrey Owen, “ *to be given to poor Housekeepers in the Township of Chetham, who are not chargeable thereto.*”—The annual produce is 2*l.* 10*s.*

The following account will shew the number of poor persons who have been relieved by the different charities, and the manner in which such relief has been distributed :

By the late Mr. SHUTTLEWORTH's Charity.

Two yards one-half of linen cloth, to - 20 poor persons.

By the late Mrs. BENT's Charity.

Money, to - - - - - 47 ditto.

By the late Mr. MARSHALL's, and the late Mr. CLARKE's Charities.

Five yards of linen cloth, to - - - 958 ditto.

One gown, seven yards one quarter, to - 228 ditto.

One coat, four yards, to - - - 26 ditto;

Carried over 1279

		Brought over	1279
One blanket, to	- - - - -		217 ditto.
Money, to	- - - - -		112 ditto.
Total number of persons relieved by the above			—
charities,	- - - - -		1608

In 1752 an Infirmary was opened, which has gone on gradually increasing its funds and the extent of its benefits. It accommodates about seventy patients in the house. In addition to the original plan of out and in-patients, has been added the class of home-patients, or those who are attended at their own houses by the medical gentlemen of the Infirmary, and thus a Dispensary has been joined to the first institution. The total number of patients admitted in these several classes for the last year was 6704; the amount of the last year's subscription was 2449*l*. Annexed to this building, but a separate foundation, is a Lunatic Hospital, established near thirty years since, and successively enlarged. It accommodates above seventy patients at a time. To the edifices of the Infirmary and Lunatic Hospital have been added a range of very commodious baths; cold, warm, and vapour, which are not only used by the patients, but admit, at fixed rates, all others who require them.\* In 1789 a Lying-in-Hospital

*\* A Table of the Rates of Subscription to the Public Baths at Manchester, from and after the first Day of August, 1790.*

## SUBSCRIBERS OF

	Non Subscribers, each time.		Half a Guinea, to be charged each time.		One Guinea, each time.		One Guinea and Half, each time.		Two Guineas, each time.	
	Individuals.	Families.	Individuals.	Families.	Individuals.	Families.	Individuals.	Families.	Individuals.	Families.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Cold Bath - - - -	0 9	0 5	0 6	0 4	0 5	0 3	0 4	0 2	0 3	
Matlock Ditto - - -	1 8	0 10	1 0	0 8	0 10	0 6	0 8	0 5	0 6	
Buxton Ditto - - -	1 8	0 10	1 0	0 8	0 10	0 6	0 8	0 5	0 6	
Hot Ditto - - - -	4 0	3 0	3 6	2 6	3 0	2 0	2 6	1 6	2 0	
Vapour Ditto - - -	6 0	4 3	5 0	3 3	4 0	2 6	3 0	2 0	2 6	
Vapour and Hot when used together - }	7 6	5 3	6 0	4 3	5 0	3 6	4 0	2 6	3 0	

in-Hospital and Charity for delivering poor women at their own houses, was established; and in the same year, a Humane Society for the recovery of persons apparently dead by drowning, &c. was instituted. A truly philanthropical society under the name of the Stranger's Friend, for the purpose of relieving those poor who are not entitled to parochial assistance, was formed in 1791. The favourite plan of Sunday-schools has been extended to about 5000 children annually in this town.

Manchester has long been the seat of an Agricultural Society, which takes in a circuit of thirty miles round the town, and by its annual premiums has done much to diffuse a spirit of improvement in that essential branch of political economy through the neighbourhood.

In 1781 this town had also the merit of setting an example to the provincial towns of this kingdom by the institution of a *Literary and Philosophical Society*. The purpose of uniting the pursuits of science and literature with commercial opulence was highly laudable; and the success with which the plan has been attended, has been manifested to the public by the appearance of four volumes in octavo of its *Me-*

It is proposed, that individuals or families, subscribing according to the foregoing rates, shall have liberty to use any of the baths, during the space of twelve months, from the time of paying their respective subscriptions: but that at the termination of this period, if the amount of the bathings shall exceed that of the sums advanced, the subscribers shall pay the difference, according to the rates specified in the several divisions of the table. Under the denomination of a *family*, all persons constantly resident within the house of the subscriber, excepting lodgers, boarders, and servants, are meant to be included. Higher prices are proposed for single bathings, as an additional inducement to subscribe; and this can be deemed no burdensome imposition on the sick, because, whenever the baths are wanted for medicinal purposes, a continued use of them is required.

Wrapping gowns and towels are to be provided without any expense to the bathers; and the servants are not allowed to receive gratuities.

moirs, which have met with a very favourable reception both at home and abroad.

Of other public plans and edifices in this town, we shall first mention the new prison or penitentiary house called the *New Bayley*, in honour of that very respectable man and active magistrate, Thomas B. Bayley, Esq. of Hope, to whom the police of this district has for many years been most highly indebted. In this are adopted all the improvements relative to that part of the police, proposed in the works of that celebrated philanthropist, Mr. Howard, with whose name it is inscribed.\* There are cells for separate confinement, different wards and yards for different classes of prisoners, and work-rooms for various occupations; as likewise a large sessions-house and rooms for magistrates, council, and jurors. It is situated in Salford near the river.

Manchester possesses a neat theatre, an elegant and capacious concert room, and large and commodious assembly rooms. It has two commodious market-places near the centre of the town. Another market at the New Cross, top of Oldham Street, has in some measure formed

*\* Copy of the Inscription on the First Stone of the New Gaol in Salford.*

On the 22d of May, 1787, and in the 27th year of the reign of George III. King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, this GAOL and PENITENTIARY-HOUSE, (at the expense of the Hundred of Salford, in the County Palatine of Lancaster) was begun to be erected; and the first Stone laid by THOMAS BUTTERWORTH BAYLEY: and that there may remain to posterity a MONUMENT of the affection and gratitude of this county, to that most excellent person, who hath so fully proved the wisdom and humanity of separate and solitary confinement of offenders, this prison is inscribed with the name of JOHN HOWARD.

itself, and is very convenient for this new and populous part of the town. The Cross stands in a wide street, four great thoroughfares meeting at this point. Over the Irwell are three bridges uniting Manchester and Salford; the old stone bridge, a wooden bridge flagged over for foot passengers, and the new or lower stone bridge, which was built by private subscription.

In the year 1776, an act passed for widening several streets near the centre of the town, for which purpose a considerable sum of money was raised by subscription. The effects produced by it were very advantageous as far as they went; but still, as in almost all other old towns, the central parts are too close; and it is only in the more modern streets that elegance and convenience are to be found united.

*Salford*, which is to Manchester what Southwark is to London, is a royalty belonging to the crown, and gives name to the hundred. It has two fairs, one at Wharfside, the other in November, for cattle, and also for peddling merchandize, hardware, woollen cloths, blanketing, &c. A market would have been opened in Salford, had it not been prevented by a statute requiring a certain distance of new markets from those of established manors. The main part of Salford consists of a wide and long street leading from the old stone bridge to the entrance of the town from Warrington and Bolton. Trinity Chapel in this street was founded in the reign of Charles I. but has since been repaired with an entire new case of stone. A new church called St. Stephen's was consecrated in 1794,\* and the increase of the town has kept pace with that of Manchester. The erection of the new stone bridge has afforded

\* The ground on which this church is built was given by Mr. John Bury, a very opulent and respectable timber merchant in Salford.



a much shorter road for carriages to most parts of Manchester than the former one through the whole length of Salford; and some capital breweries have been erected in its vicinity, which will have the advantage of being near the course of the Bolton canal. In a street running perpendicularly from the end of Salford next to the foot of the old bridge, and which appears to be the oldest part of the town, are the ancient cross and court-house for the hundred.

The supply of provision to this populous town and neighbourhood is a circumstance well deserving of notice. Formerly, oatmeal, which was the staple article of diet of the labouring class in Lancashire, was brought from Stockport; and the prices of meal and corn in the Friday's market there, ruled those of Manchester. In the town, however, corn ground at the school mills was chiefly used by families, who scarced it themselves, and separated it into fine and bread flour, and bran, for domestic use. About eighty years ago the first London baker settled in Manchester, Mr. Thomas Hadfield, known by his slyptic. His apprentices took the mills in the vicinity, and in time reduced the inhabitants to the necessity of buying flour of them, and afterwards at the flour shops. Monopolies at length took place in consequence of these changes, which at different times produced riots, one of which, occasioned by a large party of country people coming to Manchester in order to destroy the mills, ended in the loss of several lives at a fray known by the name of *Shude-hill fight*, in the year 1758. Since that time, the demand for corn and flour has been increasing to a vast amount, and new sources of supply have been opened from distant parts by the navigations, so that monopoly or scarcity cannot be apprehended, though the price of these articles must always be high in a district which produces so little and consumes so much.

Early cabbages, and cucumbers for pickling, are furnished by gardeners about Warrington; early potatoes, carrots, peas, and beans, from the sandy land on and about Bowden downs. Potatoes, now a most important auxiliary to bread in the diet of all classes, are brought from various parts, especially from about Runcorn and Frodsham, by the duke of Bridgewater's canal. Apples, which form a considerable and valuable article of the diet even of the poor in Manchester, used in pies or puddings, are imported from the distance of the cyder counties by means of the communicating canals, and in such quantities, that upwards of 3000*l.* in a year has been paid for their freight alone. The articles of milk and butter, which used to be supplied by the dairy-farmers in the vicinity, at moderate rates, are now, from the increase of population, become as dear as in the metropolis, and are furnished in a similar manner; viz. the milk, by means of milk houses in the town, which contract for it by the great, and retail it out; and the butter from considerable distances, as well as salt butter from Ireland and other places. Of butcher's meat, veal and pork are mostly brought by country butchers and farmers; mutton and beef are slaughtered by the town butchers, the animals being generally driven from a distance, except the milch cows of the neighbourhood, which are fattened when old. The supply of meat and poultry is sufficiently plentiful on market days; but on other days it is scarcely possible to procure beef from the butchers; nor is poultry to be had at any price, there being no such trade as a poulterer in the whole town. Wild fowl of various kinds are brought to market in the season.

With fish, Manchester is better provided than might be expected from its inland situation. The greatest quantity of sea-fish comes from the Yorkshire coast, consisting of large cod, lobsters, and turbot,

bots, of which last, many are sent even to Liverpool, on an overflow of the market. Soles, chiefly of a small size, come from the Lancashire coast. Salmon are brought in plenty from the rivers Mersey and Ribble, principally the latter. The rivers in the neighbourhood abound in trout, and in what is called *brood*, which are young salmon from one to two years old, and not easily distinguished from trout, which they closely resemble in shape, but are more delicate to the taste. Salmon trout is also plentiful, and likewise fine eels. The Irwell at Manchester and for some distance below is, however, destitute of fish, the water being poisoned by liquor flowing in from the dye-houses. Many ponds and old marl-pits in the neighbourhood are well stored with carp and tench, and pike and other fresh water fish are often brought to market. The poor have a welcome addition to their usual fare, in the herrings from the Isle of Man, which in the season are brought in large quantities, and are sold at a cheap rate.

The supply of coals to Manchester is chiefly derived from the pits about Oldham, Ashton, Dukinfield, Hyde, Newton, Denton, &c. at present by land carriage; but the canals now cutting will pass through that tract of country, and greatly facilitate the conveyance. The supply from the duke of Bridgewater's pits at Worsley is less considerable, though a very useful addition for the poor.

At each extremity of Manchester are many excellent houses, very elegantly fitted up, chiefly occupied by the merchants of the town, which may in some measure be considered as their country residences, being from one to two miles from their respective warehouses. Ardwick-green, to the south of the town, on the London road, is particularly distinguished by the neatness and elegance of its buildings.

Some

Some years ago it was regarded as a rural situation ; but the buildings of Manchester have extended in that direction so far as completely to connect it with the town ; and this quarter is principally inhabited by the more opulent classes, so as to resemble, though on a small scale, the west end of the city of London. There is a chapel at Ardwick, and a short time ago, Nathan Hyde, Esq. who possesses a spacious house situated in the midst of pleasure grounds at this place, made a liberal offer of a piece of land for a new church and burial ground, which will probably be accepted, should the times become again favourable for improvements.

To conclude our description of Manchester—we may without hesitation pronounce it to be that of the modern trading towns of this kingdom, which has obtained the greatest accession of wealth and population. The fortunes which have been raised by the spirit and ingenuity of its inhabitants from small capitals, have probably exceeded those acquired in any other manufacturing place ; and it is but justice to say, that in no town has opulence been more honourably and respectably enjoyed. Upon all occasions, public or private, the purses of Manchester have been open to the calls of charity and patriotism ; and whatever differences may have prevailed as to the *mode* of promoting the good of the community, the ardent *desire* of doing it has pervaded all parties. We are concerned to observe the check its prosperity is now undergoing, which is rendered too manifest by a variety of circumstances.\* May its causes prove only temporary, and be succeeded by renewed and augmented success !

\* The register of the Collegiate Church from Christmas 1793 to 1794 states a decrease of 168 marriages ; 538 christenings ; and 250 burials.

In the neighbourhood of Manchester are several old mansions, which are deserving of some notice.

*Strangeways-hall* is an ancient seat of the *Hartleys*, who once owned considerable property in and near the town. The last descendant left his estate, it is said, to his housekeeper, who conveyed it to Mr. Reynolds, father of lord Ducie, the present possessor. Many portraits of the family of *Hartley* are still remaining there.

An old house in *Pool-fold*, now converted into two public houses, was the seat of a *Ratcliff* in the reign of Charles I. at which time it was surrounded by a moat, with a draw-bridge. The posts and chains were taken away, and probably the moat filled up, about 1672.

*Broughton-hall*, about or a little before the time of queen Ann, was the property of a *Mr. Stanley*, a descendant of one of the earls of Derby, who bestowed it upon his ancestor about the time of queen Elizabeth. It is now the seat of Samuel Clowes, Esq.

*Smedley-hall* was once the seat and property of the last of the family of *Cbeethams* of *Cbeetham*. It is now owned by James Hilton, Esq.

*Collyburst-hall*, about the reign of Charles II. was the seat of *Nicholas Moseley, Esq.* of the Ancoats family. The late Sir Ashton Lever possessed it, and it has since been in several hands.

*Hough-hall*, commonly called *Hough's-end*, was the seat of *Sir Edward Moseley, Bart.* whose daughter married Sir John Bland of Kippax Park, Yorkshire.

*Hulme-hall*, an old half-timbered house, was the seat of the *Preſtwiches*, Baronets, and of the ancient family of *Preſtwich* of *Preſtwich* in the time of the Conqueror. This family, by embarking in the royal cause in the civil wars of Charles I. lost much of their property ; so that in the reign of king William, *Hulme-hall* and estate was sold and purchased by Sir Edward Moscley, who left it, together with his other estates, to his daughter Ann, wife of Sir John Bland, Baronet, who made it her chief residence. At the death of their son, Sir John Bland, it was sold to G. Lloyd, Esq. and it now belongs to the duke of Bridgewater.

*Garrat-hall*, in the time of Henry VII. belonged to *George Trafford*, Esq. and his wife Margaret, for whom the boys of the free-grammar school in Manchester were bound to pray daily along with other benefactors.

*Trafford-hall* is enjoyed by a family of the same name, which traces its descent from ancestors as far back as the conquest.

*Ordsall-hall* was once owned by a family of *Ratcliffs*, a branch of the Ratcliffs of Ratcliff, which race has spread into many once flourishing branches, as the Ratcliffs of Ordsall, Foxdenton, Smethels, Wimerley, Chaderton, Manchester, Todmorden, and Mellor, and the earls of Fitzwalter and Derwentwater. This moated mansion is now occupied by Mr. Richard Alsop, who holds it under William Egerton, of Tatton, Esq.

*Clayton-hall*, surrounded by a moat, in the time of Charles I. was owned by the *Byron* family, now lords Byron, barons of Rochdale. It

was afterwards sold to the Cheetham family, and at the death of the last Mr. Cheetham, was inherited by Mordecai Green, Esq. His son has since parted with it to several proprietors.

*Kerfall-hall* is in part owned by the respectable family of Byrons, and in part by Samuel Clowes, Esq. of Broughton. On this site once stood a small religious house founded by the lord who owned the place, and who ended his days here in solitude. Coffins and bones have been found in the gardens and orchard of late years.

*Edgcroft-hall* is possessed and occupied by the Rev. *John Dauntsey*, whose ancestor married one of the co-heirs of Sir Robert Langley of Edgcroft in the time of queen Elizabeth.

*Clifton-hall* was once the seat of a family of the name of *Holland*, a branch of the ancient family of Holland near Wigan, from whence sprung the Hollands, earl of Exeter, duke of Suffolk, &c. in the time of the civil wars between the houses of York and Lancaster. A family of this name resided at *Denton-hall* in this parish: funeral monuments and coats of arms to their memory are now remaining in Denton Chapel. This family likewise owned *Heaton-hall* and estate, till the last heir female became the wife of Sir John Egerton, Bart. of Rine-hill, Staffordshire, great grandfather of the present lord Grey de Wilton, who resides at Heaton.

*Birch-hall*, about the reign of king John was granted by Matthew de Haversege, to Matthew de Birch, with some land in Widdlinton (perhaps Withington) by a latin deed without date. Of this family

was William Birch, first warden of the collegiate church after the reformation; also colonel Birch of Birch, a commander in the Parliament army, and one of those who defended Manchester when besieged by James earl of Derby. In a large old house at Ardwick near Ancoats-hall, resided during the latter part of his days Major Birch, an officer in the Parliament army; from whom is descended the present major-general Samuel Birch, who owns the lime works\* and other lands in Ardwick.

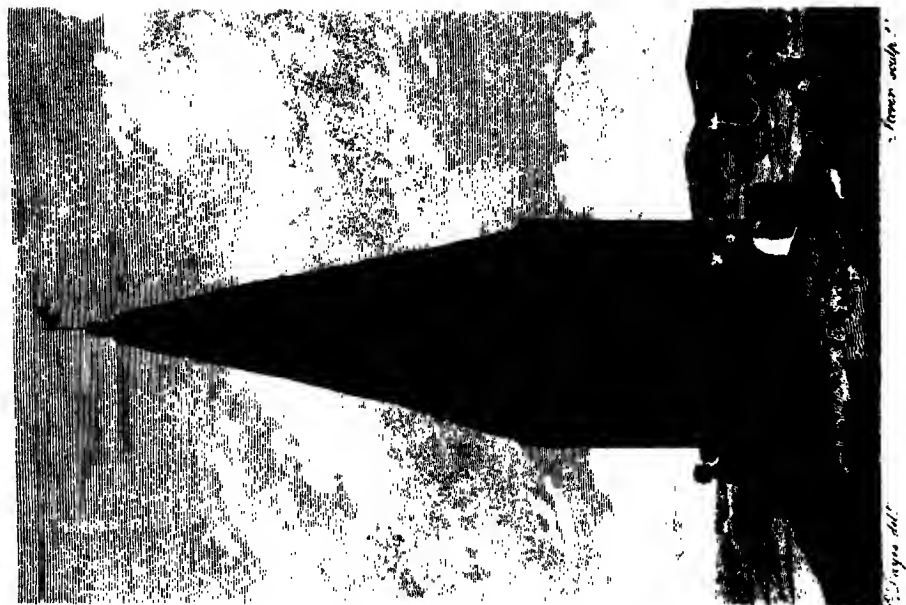
*Barlow-hall* was the residence of a family of the same name as far back as the reign of Henry VI. but descending from a family of the same name seated at Barlow or Barley, in the county of Derby, as early as the conquest. The last of the Lancashire family who possessed Barlow, was Thomas Barlow, Esq. who died about thirty years ago. One Ambrose Barlow, an English Benedictine monk, who suffered death at Lancaster on a political account in 1641, is supposed to have been of this family.

*Chorlton-hall* within these few years was owned and inhabited by the *Minshull* family, sprung from the Mynfales, lords of Mynsale in Cheshire, in the reign of Henry I. It was demised in 1590 by Edmond Trafford, Esq. to Ralph Sorocold for 320l.; and in 1644, by Ellis Hey, of Monk's-hall, in Eccles, to Thomas Minshull, apothecary,

\* This lime is of a very valuable sort, as it answers all the purposes of plaister of Paris, and is used in all the aqueducts and works on the canals. In water it becomes as hard and solid as stone, and is exported to most parts of this kingdom. It is used for water cisterns, and feels in the hand smooth and sleek like soap. It is wound up from pits of a considerable depth by a horse-gin.







VIEW OF HARTSHILL PIKE.

*Picture taken 1898 in J. Woodhead Roadside*



VIEW OF ANCOATS

in Manchester, for 300/. If these sums are compared to the many thousand pounds (some say sixty or seventy) for which it has lately been sold, an idea will be given of the amazing increase in the value of property near Manchester.

*Ancoats-hall*, a very ancient building of wood and plaister, but in some parts re-built with brick and stone, is the seat of Sir John Mosely, Bart. lord of the manor, but is now occupied by William Rawlinson, Esq. an eminent merchant in Manchester.—The annexed view, though on a small scale, is a just representation of the front of the house. It is the back part that is chiefly rebuilt.

The parish of Manchester is extensive, being computed to contain a compass of somewhat less than sixty square miles, within which are thirty-one townships exclusive of those of Manchester and Salford. It is bounded on the north, by the parishes of Prestwich, Middleton, and Oldham; to the east, by that of Ashton-under-line; to the west, by those of Eccles and Flixton; to the south, it reaches the borders of Cheshire. The population of the townships, exclusive of those of Manchester and Salford, was found, at the enumeration in 1773 and 4, to be somewhat less than half the amount of that in those towns; and as they are filled with the various branches of the Manchester manufactory, it may be supposed that their increase of population has gone on proportionally to that of the population of Manchester. Many parts of the parish appear like a continued village bordering the high roads for miles. The land is chiefly employed in pasture and meadow, as well as in bleaching and printing grounds, and other purposes connected with manufactures. The parish contains ten chapelries.

The annexed view of Manchester is taken from Kerfall-moor, at the distance of about three miles. The situation affords a pleasing landscape, for the fore-ground, enlivened by the beautiful windings of the Irwell.

Manchester has not yet afforded much matter for biographical anecdote. The printed accounts of its college have generally contained a brief biography of the wardens; most of whom, however, were strangers, and none (except the mathematician and mystic, Dr. Dee) became sufficiently eminent in literature to be entitled to particular commemoration. One person, who may properly be called a Manchester man, has obtained by literary merit the distinction of a place in the *Biographia Britannica*, and certainly deserves notice here. The following account of him is drawn chiefly from that work, though with some additions and remarks from other sources.

### ACCOUNT OF JOHN BYROM, M.A.

JOHN BYROM, the younger son of Mr. Edward Byrom, linen-draper, a branch of a genteel family in Lancashire, was born at Kerfall, near Manchester, in the year 1691. Having received the rudiments of education in his native place, he was removed to Merchant Taylor's school in London, where he went through the usual classical studies with reputation. At the age of sixteen he was sent to the University of Cambridge; and on July 6th, 1708, was admitted a pensioner of Trinity College, under the tuition of Mr. (afterwards Dr. and Vice-master) Baker. Here he pursued the graver studies of the place far enough to take both his degrees in arts; but the bent of his mind declared itself for poetry, and the pleasanter parts of literature. The *Spectator* was at that period the popular work of the time; and it was not uncommon for

men





men of ingenuity to essay their powers of entertaining the public, in some of the papers of that pleasing and instructive miscellany. Mr. Byrom is said to have contributed the two letters concerning dreams in the 586th and 593d numbers. They are not distinguished by any great depth of thought, or vigour of style, but may deserve the praise of lively conception and elegant morality. But a poem, more certainly of his composition, in the 603d number, has obtained a very general and lasting approbation. It is the well-known pastoral song of *Colin and Phæbe*, which has had a place in most posterior collections of poetry of that kind; and by the familiar simplicity of its language, and its natural sentiment and imagery, seldom fails to give pleasure, especially to young readers. Some of the thoughts, nevertheless, are not free from the quaintness of the Italian school; and the diction sometimes goes to the extreme verge of the *simple*.

In 1714 Mr. Byrom was chosen fellow of his college; and the suavity of his manners and pleasantry of his humour endeared him to his companions, and gained him the favour of his master, the celebrated Dr. Bentley. In 1716, however, he was obliged to quit his fellowship, not chusing to comply with the condition required by the statutes of the college, that of taking holy orders. Probably, in common with many other conscientious men of that period, he was prevented by political scruples. Not long after, his health being impaired, he went to Montpellier. During his residence in France, he received a strong impression from reading Father Malebranche's *Search after Truth*, and some of the devotional pieces of Antoinette Bourignon. The effect of this seems to have continued through life; and he remained warmly attached to the visionary philosophy of the former, and not a little addicted to the mystical enthusiasm of the latter. In more advanced life it appears from his works that he adopted the congenial notions

notions of the Behmenists. If apology were at all necessary for a man's speculative opinions, it would be easy to adduce examples of a similar turn of mind in persons highly estimable for the qualities both of head and heart.

On his return, he was for some time wavering in the choice of a profession, and that of physic suggested itself to him, but he did not carry his purpose into effect. Either, however, from this intention, or from his character of a literary graduate, he obtained from his acquaintance the title of Doctor, by which he was afterwards universally known and addressed at Manchester. *Some* profession was very desirable to him, on account of an attachment which at this time took place between him and his cousin, Miss Elizabeth Byrom; which, after much pressing sollicitation on his part, and much opposition on that of the young lady's parents, who were rich, terminated at length in marriage. As he received no support from his father, his little fortune was soon exhausted in this new condition; on which account he was obliged to leave his wife with her relations in Manchester, and resort to London in order to make the best of his abilities. When at Cambridge, he had invented a new kind of short hand, which for beauty and legibility has obtained great praise from the best judges in the principles of that useful art. This he began to teach professionally at Manchester, and he pursued the same employment on the greater theatre of London. Among his pupils were several persons of rank and quality, one of whom was lord Stanhope, afterwards the celebrated earl of Chesterfield. It was his custom occasionally to deliver to his scholars a lecture on the utility and importance of short-hand writing, (in which he was an enthusiast) and this, being interspersed with his natural strokes of humour and vivacity, proved very entertaining. His pupils were  
much



much attached to him, and used to treat him with the jocular title of Grand Master. Either from his proficiency in this art, or from his general character as a literary man, he was created a fellow of the Royal Society in March 1724.

The death of his elder brother without issue, at length relieved him from this straightened condition. He succeeded to the family estate at Kerfall, and was at liberty to enjoy that domestic felicity which the society of a truly faithful and affectionate wife, and a rising family of children, assured to a man of his amiable disposition. Of the after events of his life, none are recorded of sufficient importance to give to the public, except that in this work it may be proper to mention the part he took in the opposition to the proposed Manchester Workhouse-bill, at the beginning of the year 1731. In conjunction with Thomas Pigott, Esq. barrister at law, he conducted the business in London; and a series of MSS. letters from them to the committee of the party at Manchester, is in the possession of the writer of this account. Mr. Byrom's letters, written to an intimate friend and old companion, are an agreeable mixture of business and pleasantry, and contain many particulars of the public news of the day, as well as the progress of their particular affair. To shew the spirit with which he entered into the matter, we shall transcribe a passage from his first letter after reaching London. " We hope in a little time to be able to communicate our  
 " own endeavours to obviate unfair play, amongst some lords and gen-  
 " tlemen, whose interest we have begun to lay wait for at second hand,  
 " and hope to do it in person; to which if any one shall object, as  
 " a piece of meddling and impertinence in us, we shall answer, that  
 " we are not of the man's humour, who being on board a ship at sea,  
 " and a storm arising, and being desired to work a little, for that the  
 " ship

“ ship was in danger of being sunk, replied, ‘ What have I to do  
 “ with the ship ? I am but a passenger.’ We look upon ourselves em-  
 “ barked in the *good ship Manchester*, and whenever we apprehend her  
 “ in the least danger, are ready to work as hard as if we were never so  
 “ considerable sharers in her cargo. We profess a love and service to  
 “ the fellow inhabitants of our country, although we should not have  
 “ a foot of land in it, not measuring our affection for our brethren by  
 “ our’s or their acres, but by justice, kindness, and liberty.”

The latter part of Mr. Byrom’s life passed in the calm round of domestic and social employments, and in the amusement of writing, particularly pieces of verse on a variety of topics. Versification of the easy unhackled kind he practised, was so familiar to him, that no subject, however abstruse or uncommon, came amiss ; and he possessed the facility, if not the graces, of Ovid, in this respect. Even religious controversies and literary dissertations were carried on by him in verse ; but it may readily be imagined, less to the delight of the reader, than to his own gratification. Nothing was so well suited to his style of writing and thinking as familiar humorous story-telling ; and if any of his works deserve to survive their author, they are a few pieces of this kind. His relation of the combat between Figg and Sutton, two prize-fighters, and of his purchase of the head of his favourite Malebranche at an auction, are perhaps the best specimens of these light effusions. The latter is unaccountably left out of the collection of his works printed at Manchester after his death in two vols. 12mo. in 1773. One of the most serious of his critical dissertations in verse was an attempt to prove, that the true patron saint of this kingdom was not the dubious St. George of Cappadocia, but pope Gregory the Great, under whose auspices the Saxons of England were con-

verted to Christianity. But this singular hypothesis was fully confuted in prose, by that accurate antiquary, the Rev. Mr. Pegge.

Mr. Byrom was much beloved and respected at Manchester and its vicinity, and though particularly connected with one party, yet gained the esteem of all, by an inoffensive cheerfulness of manner, and benignity of disposition. He died on the 28th of September, 1763, in the 72d year of his age.

## ECCLES PARISH.

THE parish of Eccles in its greatest extent from east to west is about nine miles long. Its greatest breadth from north to south extends four miles. It is a vicarage in the gift of the crown. The church, which stands in the village of Eccles, distant from Manchester four miles and a half, is ancient and large. It formerly (with the parish of Dean) belonged to Whalley Abbey in this county; but at the dissolution of the monasteries it was made parochial; the great tythes were taken from it, and after passing through many lay impropriators, they are now nearly all sold to the owners of the several estates in the parish. From these a small reserved payment, and the glebe, with the dues, form the vicar's stipend.

There is nothing peculiar in the climate or soil of this parish, except its containing Chat moss, and Trafford moss, and other smaller portions of morassy ground, which there is now a reasonable prospect of re-

claiming, by the spirited and judicious exertions of Mr. Wakefield of Liverpool.

The agriculture of the parish is chiefly confined to grazing, and would be more materially benefited by *draining*; but the tax upon brick, a most essential article in this process, has been a very great hindrance to it. The use of lime (imported from Wales, and brought by the inland navigations to the neighbourhood of our collieries) has become very general in the improvement of the meadow and pasture lands; experience proves its great efficacy in improving the quality of the grass on all kinds of soil, where it is laid on in sufficient quantities; and on lands properly drained, it nearly has superseded the use of marle. The roads in this, as in all other counties, are become an object of very general and serious concern. . To make and preserve these in as perfect a manner as possible, is indispensable for the interests of agriculture and commerce. Much labour, and a very great expense of money, have been expended on the roads of this parish; but they still remain in a very indifferent state, and from one plain and obvious cause, the immoderate weights drawn in waggons and carts. To prevent this, vain and useless are all the regulations of *weighing machines*; and the encouragement of broad and rolling wheels still increases the evil, which must soon destroy all the best roads of *Great Britain*, and by their irresistible crush exhaust all the ballast or gravel, materials required to repair the mischiefs they occasion.

It is the duty of the legislature not only to authorize and require good roads to be *made* throughout the kingdom, but also to enact such regulations as may *preserve* them when made; and it is now proved that this can only be done by “such a construction of carriages as will  
“oblige

“ *oblige* them to carry *light* loads, and *not* enable them to carry *heavy* “ ones.” In short, by encouraging or enforcing the use of *short* teams, or *one horse carts*. Almost all the reports of counties to the Board of Agriculture agree in this *important* fact.

The bills of mortality will shew the extent and increase of the population of the parish of Eccles, which is the effect of the great demand for hands in our manufactures.

The invention and improvements of machines to shorten labour, has had a surprising influence to extend our trade, and also to call in hands from all parts, especially children for the *cotton mills*. It is the wise plan of Providence, that in this life there shall be no good without its attendant inconvenience. There are many which are too obvious in these cotton mills, and similar factories, which counteract that increase of population usually consequent on the improved facility of labour. In these, children of very tender age are employed; many of them collected from the *workhouses* in *London* and *Westminster*, and transported in crowds, as apprentices to masters resident many hundred miles distant, where they serve unknown, unprotected, and forgotten by those to whose care nature or the laws had consigned them. These children are usually too long confined to work in close rooms, often during the whole night: the air they breathe from the oil, &c. employed in the machinery, and other circumstances, is injurious; little regard is paid to their cleanliness, and frequent changes from a warm and dense to a cold and thin atmosphere, are predisposing causes to sickness and disability, and particularly to the epidemic fever which so generally is to be met with in these factories. It is also much to be questioned, if society does not receive detriment from the manner in

which children are thus employed during their early years. They are not generally strong to labour, or capable of pursuing any other branch of business, when the term of their apprenticeship expires. The females are wholly uninstructed in sewing, knitting, and other domestic affairs, requisite to make them notable and frugal wives and mothers. This is a very great misfortune to them and the public, as is sadly proved by a comparison of the families of labourers in husbandry, and those of manufacturers in general. In the former we meet with neatness, cleanliness, and comfort; in the latter with filth, rags, and poverty; although their wages may be nearly double to those of the husbandman. It must be added, that the want of early religious instruction and example, and the numerous and indiscriminate association in these buildings, are very unfavourable to their future conduct in life. To mention these grievances, is to point out their remedies; and in *many* factories they have been adopted with true benevolence and much success. But in all cases "The public have a right to see that its members are not wantonly injured, or carelessly lost."

The advance of population in the parish of Eccles has been attended with a due care respecting public worship, and the religious education of children. Two new chapels of ease have been built since the year 1775 at Pendleton and Swinton, with competent salaries for the clergymen from seat rents. In *this mode* of providing the ministers stipend in new-erected churches and chapels, there does not appear a sufficient recollection of the decreasing value of money, or a requisite provision to obviate its effects, by a clause in the consecration deeds, to authorise a proper advance of the stipend as the circumstance may require, by the direction of the bishop, or otherwise.

The excellent institutions of Sunday schools were early patronized in Eccles parish, and continue to receive the steady and liberal support of the parishioners. There are now, it is calculated, near one thousand children regularly taught in these schools, and with very considerable improvement.

In the last twenty-five years only two have been added to the number of alehouses in this parish.

Accurate bills of mortality for Eccles parish have been yearly printed ever since 1776, from which the following extracts are made.—It is to be observed, that the dissenters of all sorts are included in the general enumeration of families and persons, though not generally in the lists of births and burials.

Year.	Christs.	Burials.	Marr.	Year.	Christs.	Burials.	Marr.
1776	303	331	95	1785	423	310	110
1777	347	248	76	1786	429	363	111
1778	347	207	86	1787	440	327	131
1779	340	337	86	1788	485	384	108
1780	364	289	74	1789	474	392	102
1781	362	248	87	1790	479	455	117
1782	386	237	74	1791	526	415	128
1783	329	358	72	1792	586	480	183
1784	418	268	122	1793	542	560	121

From the parish register before the bills were kept in the new form the following lists are made, in which the average numbers during periods of ten years each, are stated.

## ECCLES PARISH.

Years.	Christs.	Bur.	Years.	Christs.	Bur.
1700—1710	118	89	1740—1750	194	138
1710—1720	120	106	1750—1760	178	151
1720—1730	152	197	1760—1770	229	177
1730—1740	168	134	1770—1776	321	223

An uncommon and very valuable article in the new bills, is an annual statement of the population of the whole parish, from which we shall copy a few periods to show the gradual increase.

		Families.		Inhab.
1776	In Worsley	522	-	2725
	Barton	735	-	3742
	Pendleton, Pendle-	391	-	2256
	bury, and Clifton			
		<hr/> 1648	-	<hr/> 8723

		Families.		Inhab.
1780	In Worsley	560	-	3020
	Barton	740	-	3958
	Pendleton, Pendle-	390	-	2170
	bury, and Clifton			
		<hr/> 1690		<hr/> 9148

		Families.		Inhab.
1785	In Worsley	609	-	3464
	Barton	785	-	4341
	Pendleton, Pendle-	437	-	2717
	bury, and Clifton			
		<hr/> 1831	-	<hr/> 10,522



			Families.			Inhab.
1790	In Worsley	-	742	-	-	4227
	Barton	-	922	-	-	5085
	Pendleton, Pendle-	}	542	-	-	3118
	bury, and Clifton					
			<u>2206</u>	-	-	<u>12,430</u>

			Families.			Inhab.
1793	In Worsley	-	817	-	-	4693
	Barton	-	1004	-	-	5646
	Pendleton, Pendle-	}	634	-	-	3926
	bury, and Clifton					
			<u>2455</u>	-	-	<u>14,265</u>

## ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE PARISH.

THIS parish is situated in the south-eastern corner of the county. Ashton itself is a small but populous town, which has received a great increase of late years, and now consists of several streets of well-built, commodious houses. It stands on a rising situation on the north side of the Tame. There was formerly a market held here every Wednesday, at a place where an ancient cross is still standing; but it has been discontinued above thirty years, though such a convenience is now particularly wanted from the augmented population.

The earl of Stamford, to whom the town and a principal part of the parish belongs, holds a court leet here yearly, where his agent presides

as judge, and all disputes, breaches of trust, rights of tenants, together with actions of debt under forty shillings, are cognizable. It appears from a very ancient manuscript now in the possession of Joseph Pickford, Esq. of Royton, containing the rent-roll and several very curious particulars concerning the estate, drawn at a remote period, to have been a borough; but why the charter was withdrawn, or by what means the privilege was lost, there is no account: yet the custom of yearly nomination, and the insignia of office, are still kept up by the inhabitants.

There is nothing that excites the curiosity of a stranger so much at this place as the annual custom of *Riding the Black Lad*, which is always celebrated on Easter Monday. There are different traditions concerning the origin of this extraordinary circumstance, and the idea is generally prevalent, that it is kept up to perpetuate the disgraceful actions of Sir Ralph Ashton, who in the year 1483, under the authority of vice constable \* of the kingdom, exercised great severity in this part of the country. The following are the particulars of the ceremony. An effigy in the human form, which is made of straw, inclosed in a coarse wrapper, and seated on a horse, is first led through the town, after which it is hung up at a cross in the market-place, and there shot away in the presence of a large concourse of the neighbouring people, who always attend to be spectators of the exhibition. Yet from a sum issued out of the court to defray the expense of the effigy, and from a suit of armour which till of late it usually rode in, together with other particulars handed down by tradition, a very different account of the origin of this custom is preserved, of which the following is the substance:

\* The commission is still to be seen in *Rymer's Fœdera*.

In the reign of Edward the Third, surnamed of Windsor, lived Thomas Ashton, of Ashton-under-lyne, of whom nothing but the following particulars are known: In the year 1346, when the king was in France, David king of Scotland brought an army into the middle of this kingdom; and at Nevil's Cross near Durham, Edward's queen, with the earl of Northumberland as general, gained a complete victory over the Scots, about the same time that her husband obtained a great victory in France. In this battle, Thomas Ashton, one of her foldiers, but in what station is unknown, rode through the ranks of the enemy, and bore away the royal standard from the king's tent, who himself was afterwards taken prisoner. For this act of Ashton's heroism, when Edward returned from France, he gave him the honour of knighthood, and the title of Sir Thomas Ashton, of Ashton-under-lyne: and to commemorate this singular display of his valour, he instituted the custom above described, and left the sum of ten shillings yearly to support it, (within these few years reduced to five) with his own suit of black velvet, and a coat of mail, the helmet of which is yet remaining.

Ashton has a large and ancient church, furnished with a fine ring of ten bells, and a large organ erected by the subscription of the inhabitants. Under the seats of some of the pews are rude carvings on wood, relating to different families in the neighbourhood, of a very old date. Several of these are preserved, though the church has been newly pewed. A popular tale is current concerning a supposed ace of spades cut upon the south side of the steeple. This has been found by Mr. Barritt to be an old triangular shield charged with a mullet, the arms of Ashton, impaling the arms of Stealey, of Stealey, in that neighbourhood, which seems to denote that a lady of that family married to an Ashton was a liberal contributor towards the building. The living is a valuable rectory in the gift of the earl of Stamford, now in the possession of the Rev. Sir George Booth, Bart. Near the church is a building of great

antiquity, called the Old Hall, which is supposed to have been built about the year 1483, at present occupied by Mr. Brooke. Adjoining to it is an edifice which has the appearance of a prison, and till of late years has been used as such; it was formerly regarded by the inhabitants as a sort of Bastille to the place. It is a strong rather small building, with two round towers overgrown with ivy, called the dungeons, but which appear to have been only conveniences for the prisoners, as they have door places, a flag for the feet, and a rail to prevent them from falling backwards, with drains from the bottom; and they are not large enough for a person to live in. The prison is now occupied by different poor families. It has two court-yards, an inner and an outer, with strong walls. Over the outer gate was a square room ascended to from the inside by a flight of stone steps, and very ancient. It has always gone by the name of the Gaoler's Chapel, as it was supposed that prayers were occasionally read in it to the prisoners. The annexed view will give a good idea of its state in 1793, just before it was taken down. The house to the inner court is still standing, and in tolerable repair. It is inhabited by a venerable and very aged man, who remembers the gate being open through the house about sixty years ago. The other view annexed is of the two supposed dungeons and back part of the prison, taken at the same time. On the other side is a view of the back front of the Old Hall adjoining the prison, overlooking the gardens and river Tame, with a beautiful prospect. On this side of the building are strong parts of immense thickness with numbers of loop holes. This view was taken from Spring Pasture. At a short distance is a meadow well known by the name of Gallows-field, doubtless the place of execution when the lord of Ashton had power of life and death.

Ashton is joined by two very considerable hamlets of houses, built in the beginning of the American war, and called *Boston* and *Charlestown*, after the places of that name in New-England. It also extends in every direction













*C. Poyne del.*

*A. Newman sculp.*

VIEW OF JAILERS CHAPEL.



*C. Poyne del.*

*A. Newman sculp.*



direction towards the neighbouring towns. It is well supplied with water, except about two months in the summer, when the inhabitants are obliged to fetch their soft water in carts from the Tame. This river abounds with trout. It is also of the highest utility to the machinery of the woollen and cotton factories of the neighbourhood; it being reckoned that within the space of ten miles from Ashton there are near 100 mills upon this stream and its tributary branches. The annexed view of the town was taken from the terrace in the front of Dukinfield-lodge, an eminence looking down to the Tame and Dukinfield-bridge, about half a mile from the church. On the right is the prison; on the left, the town, stretching towards Manchester.

Coals are got at the very edge of the town in abundance, whence they will be conveyed to Manchester by the canal which is now nearly finished. Its advantages to the town and neighbourhood will be incalculable, particularly in the improvement of the soil by lime and other manures. At a short distance from Ashton, on the Manchester road, is an extensive moss, from the edges of which the surrounding poor cut turf, which supplies them with fuel. The turf is cut away till the diggers come, at about ten feet depth, to a tolerable soil of loam, which on proper improvement becomes good meadow land. The moss itself is a shaking bog, which nevertheless can be crossed in any season, and probably might be made solid ground by means of judicious draining. Red fir trees are frequently found in it, which, being fresh and full of turpentine, serve, when split, the purpose of candles to the poor; also numbers of large oak trees perfectly sound and as black as ebony.

Ashton and its townships have rapidly increased in population, with the increase of manufactures. From an enumeration made in 1775, it appears that there were,

In the town, 553 houses, 599 families, 2859 inhabitants,

In the parish, 941 ditto. 971 ditto. 5097 ditto.

The parish register of births and burials is as under :

Years.	Christen.	Bur.	Years.	Christen.	Bur.
1765	235	159	1784	422	187
1770	281	167	1785	427	201
1775	323	239	1786	409	175
1776	230	131	1787	428	351
1777	324	180	1788	438	244
1778	350	174	1789	412	232
1779	342	199	1790	469	259
1780	348	180	1791	461	185
1781	364	200	1792	572	308
1782	373	186	1793	545	348
1783	353	237	1794	399	399

The following Epitaph may be seen on a tomb in Ashton church-yard in pretty good repair :

“ Here resteth the body of JOHN LEECH, of Hurst, buried the.  
 “ 16th day of October 1689, aged 92 years, who by ANNE his  
 “ wife had issue 12 children, and in his life-time was father to 12,  
 “ grandfather to 75, great grandfather to 92, great great grandfather  
 “ to 2, in all 181 persons.”

Upon the tomb there has been something or other like a coat of arms, upon the top of which is entwined a Serpent, which tradition says he kept tame in his house.—Motto, “ *Virtus est venerabilis.*”

The following list of houses in the several districts, paying the window taxes, was taken in 1793.

# ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE PARISH.

229

Ashton town	-	-	-	279	Mosley	-	-	-	65
Boston	-	-	-	28	Smallshaw	-	-	-	22
Charlestown	-	-	-	23	Hurst	-	-	-	108
Audenshaw, including Hoo-					Luzly and Towracre	-			40
ley-hill	-	-	-	238	Ridghill-lane, or 'Sta-				
Knott-lanes	-	-	-	202	ley-bridge	-			112
Harthead	-	-	-	37					
					Total				1154

It is certain, however, that this is very short of the real number, as evidently appears by comparison with the return of houses in the town in 1775, since which period it has manifestly received a great increase.

The town of Ashton, including Boston, Charlestown, Botany-Bay, Hurst, and the adjoining buildings on the Manchester, Mosley, and Staley-bridge roads, with the new street, &c. near the church, cannot be much short of 1,600 houses. In this town five inhabitants may safely be reckoned to a house, making in all 8000 souls. Staley-bridge, Oldham, Dukinfield, Hooley-hill, Audenshaw, Openshaw, with the other towns and villages in this neighbourhood, have increased nearly in the same proportion as Ashton.

With respect to the school, the appointment of a master is jointly betwixt the earl of Stamford and the Rev. Sir George Booth, Rector. The inscription is as follows:—"Given by the Right Hon. George earl of Warrington, and rebuilt by the parish anno Domini, 1721." The salary is three pounds per annum with a small house over the school; the three pounds paid from Crime estate.

*Staley-bridge*, near two miles above Ashton-under-lyne, has an excellent stone bridge across the Tame. A little below it another was lately

lately built by the late John Astley of Dukinfield, Esq. for the convenience of his own estate. The place is now a very large and extensive village, the houses well built, some of stone, but the greatest part of brick. On an eminence stands an octagon chapel of the church of England, in which is an organ. Part of the village is on the Cheshire side of the Tame, but by far the greatest in Lancashire, in a continued street of half a mile, well paved. The greatest part of this village, as well as the chapel, has been built in the last eighteen years.

This place has been famous, for a great length of time, for woollen cloth, dyers and pressers, as well as weavers. These branches still continue to flourish. Here and in this neighbourhood commences the woollen manufactory, which extends in various directions as we proceed to Saddleworth. Here is an old hall, long in the possession of a family of the Kenworthy's, who are principally concerned in the clothing business, but the great support of the place has for some time past been the cotton trade. The annexed view was taken from below the bridge.

On a high ground on the Cheshire side of the Tame, about two miles above Staley-bridge, is situated Staley-hall, the old family seat of the Staleys. It is a roomy, spacious house with extensive barns and stables of modern date, strong and well built with stone. The annexed view was taken at the bottom of the yard.

In the back ground is a distant view of Bucton Castle. The stabling, &c. forms a wing on the left, but being of great extent could not be brought into so small a compass. It is now a farm-house in the occupation of a Mr. Morse, with very extensive possessions belonging to it, bordering on the Yorkshire moors. A new turnpike road from Staley-  
bridge



*C. Dwyer delin.*

*H. W. W. sculp.*

VIEW OF STALEY HALL.



*C. Dwyer delin.*

*H. W. W. sculp.*









*Cartoon only*

*McGraw-Hill*

Bridge passing this hall into Yorkshire, is nearly finished, and the canal from Ashton, running up this valley at the side of the Tame, is carrying on with speed.

A little above Staley-hall, on the Lancashire side of the Tame, stands *Scout Mill*, a place well known to the surrounding neighbourhood, partly from its very rural and romantic situation, and partly for its melancholy and unfortunate inhabitants. For many years it has been in the occupation of Mr. Wilson, a respectable man, now very far advanced in life, who has long had the care of insane persons, but has now in a great measure declined it. A few are still under the care of his son. The mill is now used in the cotton branch. It is descended to from the turnpike road near Mosley by a long steep hill, with a lofty broken ground, nearly perpendicular to the river, overhung by a fine wood. The annexed view was taken from a rock in the middle of the river, in order to comprehend the beautiful fall of water at the Wear. In the back ground is a view of the high hill on which stood Buerton Castle.

*Mosley* is a considerable village, with upwards of 100 houses, many of them large and well built, chiefly of stone. It is about three miles from Ashton, in the high road to Huddersfield, with a large chapel in the gift of or under the rector of Ashton.

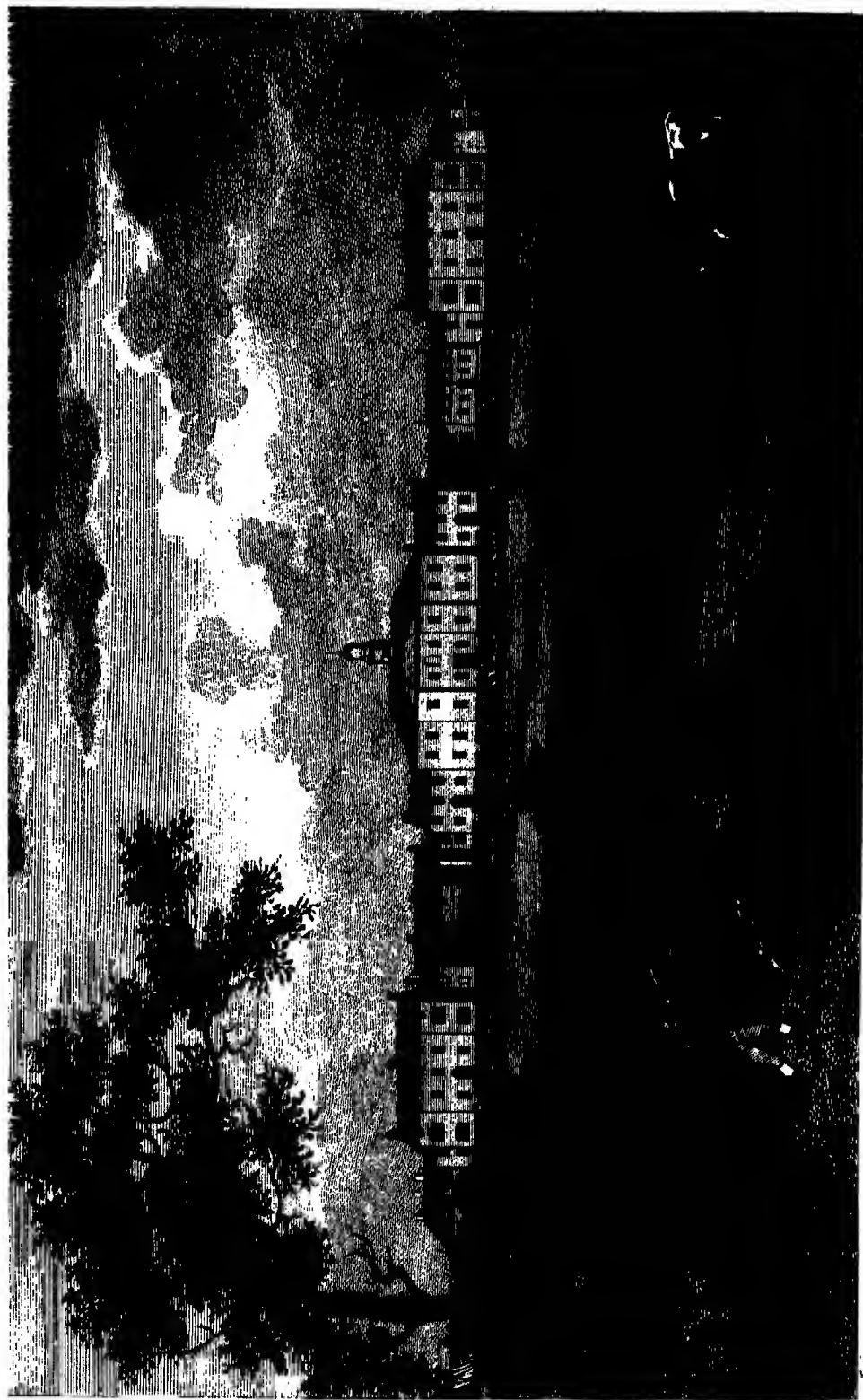
Near this stands Hart's-head Pike,\* a favourite and well-known object for the surrounding country, which is seen at a considerable distance, and in general has been supposed to be a sea mark. It is situated

\* For a view of this Pike see page 211.

on very high ground betwixt Oldham and Mosley, from whence the traveller has a most delightful view of the surrounding country. We have ascertained, from good authority, that it was formerly used as a beacon, and there are others in the neighbourhood to answer it. It was rebuilt of solid stone in 1758, and is of considerable height and circumference. It is now split from top to bottom near half a yard in width. A few pounds laid out in repairs, if done in time, might preserve this pile for a century to come. On the top are the small remains of a weather-cock, probably a hart's-head.

*Fairfield* is a new settlement belonging to the Moravians, near four miles from Manchester and within two fields of the Ashton turnpike road. Though established within these twenty years it has the appearance of a little town. There is a large and commodious chapel, with an excellent organ. The ground plot is laid out with great taste and judgement. It forms a large square. The chapel and some large dwelling houses well built of brick form the front. On each side of the chapel are two deep rows of dwelling houses; on the back front behind the chapel is a row of elegant large houses. These, with the chapel, form a large square mass of buildings, round which is a broad paved street, and the whole is flagged round. On the outer side of the street is another row of excellent buildings, which surrounds the whole, except the front; at a short distance from which is a fine row of kitchen gardens, and opposite to the chapel a large burying ground; the whole divided and surrounded with quickset hedges. One of the houses is a convenient inn with stabling, &c. for the accommodation of those who frequent the place.





*W. H. Smith*

VIEW OF FAIRFIELD

*Engraved by W. H. Smith, & Published by W. H. Smith*

*W. H. Smith*

The neatness of the whole has a very pleasing appearance, and the place is frequented by numbers from Manchester. The annexed view is taken from the right of the turnpike road leading from Manchester.

The cotton manufactory forms a principal part of the employment of the inhabitants, including spinning, weaving, &c. Tambour and fine needle-work is carried to a great pitch of perfection, and is chiefly sent to London. There are also in this settlement taylors, shoemakers, bakers, and a sale shop for most articles, as well for the convenience of the settlement, as for the neighbourhood.

The Manchester, Ashton, and Oldham canal comes close to this place, which will be of infinite advantage to it, as well for the carrying of goods to and from Manchester and Ashton, as for procuring a supply of coals nearly as cheap as at the pit.

At a short distance is *Shepley-ball*, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Tame, and now in the occupation of Thomas Phillips, Esq. adjoining to it are the very large cotton factories and extensive bleaching grounds of Messrs. Phillips and Lowe.

The people of Ashton and the neighbourhood about sixty years ago were almost wholly employed in spinning cotton wefts for check-makers or twist to make fustian warps. They likewise furnished single cotton harder thrown to make warps for slight goods. Of late they have fallen more into the practice of making twist and warps for velverets, cotton thicksets, &c. The inhabitants of several of the townships near Hooley-hill are employed in a hat manufactory lately set up at a new village called Quebec, on the road from Ashton to Stockport.

## PRESTWICH PARISH.

*PRESTWICH-CUM-OLDHAM* constitutes one rectory, though the parishes are, in some respect, separate. The proper parish of Prestwich contains the following townships, to which the number of families, taken at three different periods, is annexed :

	In 1714	1789	1792
Prestwich - - -	94 - - -	282 - - -	291
Two Heatons - - -	40 - - -	141 - - -	148
Whitefield - - -	148 - - -	149 - - -	556
Unsworth - - -	(not returned)	115 - - -	151
Outwood - - -	63 - - -	156 - - -	183
Alkington and Tong -	25 - - -	129 - - -	152
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Families	370 - -	1314 - -	1481

The progress of population is further shown by the following extracts from the parish register of Prestwich :

Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.	Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.
1700 -	51	58	23	1760 -	78	61	78
1710 -	50	41	27	1770 -	126	139	126
1720 -	48	53	28	1780 -	155	126	199
1730 -	49	89	46	1790 -	201	209	244
1740 -	101	73	48	1791 -	210	185	259
1750 -	83	64	40	1792 -	174	192	257

It is to be remarked, that the building of new chapels of ease (of which there are now seven in the united parishes) causes great fluctuations in the articles of christenings and burials at the parish church.

Prest-



Prestwich parish is about fifteen miles in length and three in breadth. Its soil is very indifferent, though it has been much improved of late years by manuring and draining. Lime is the principal manure made use of. The great demand for milk and butter at Manchester has diminished the quantity of tillage, so that there is probably little more than half the land in that species of cultivation that there was about fifteen years since. The grain and straw produced are generally for the farmer's own consumption, and the land is only now and then broken up to keep it in good condition, and turn up the lime, which naturally keeps sinking. The tithes are for the most part paid by a moderate composition: 20s. per Cheshire acre for wheat; 15s. for barley, (of which very little is grown;) and 10s. for oats. The living is of the clear yearly value of about £.700. The principal seats in the Prestwich part of the parish are those of lord Grey de Wilton at Great Heaton; the late Sir Ashton Lever at Alkrington; Peter Drinkwater, Esq. at Irwell-house; and Thomas Phillips, Esq. at Sedgely.

The air of Prestwich is pure and salubrious, as the following note will testify:—In the year 1747, May the 1st, the ages of the then rector, curate, churchwarden, clerk and his wife, sexton and his wife, were as under:

	Years.				
Doctor Goodwin	-	-	-	-	70
Mr. Scholes, curate	-	-	-	-	78
Ralph Guest, churchwarden	-	-	-	-	85
Robert Diggle, parish clerk	-	-	-	-	85
Anna Diggle his wife	-	-	-	-	78
Edmund Berry, sexton	-	-	-	-	76
Mary Berry	-	-	-	-	86
					<hr/>
					558

*Heaton-house*, the seat of lord Grey de Wilton, about four miles from Manchester, is beautifully situated on an eminence in a rich park, highly manured and well wooded.

This truly elegant seat is built from a design of Wyatt. The centre is a circular projection with a dome at the top, that gives the whole a fine effect. It is not composed of either of the five orders, but approaches nearest to the Ionic. The apartments are truly noble, and fitted up in the first style of elegance. One room in particular is ornamented in the compartments by the inimitable pencil of Rebecca. From the temple in the park is a most delightful view over an extensive and well-wooded country.

The annexed view will give a better idea of the simplicity and elegance of the building than any description.

## OLDHAM PARISH.

OLDHAM is a parochial chapelry, connected with Prestwich, consisting of four townships, *Oldham*, *Royton*, *Chaderton*, and *Crompton*.

OLDHAM contains one church and a chapel of the establishment, and a methodist and a dissenter's meeting-house. The town is pleasantly situated on a high eminence commanding an extensive and delightful prospect, and is inhabited by a number of respectable families. The chief seat in the township is that of the Greggs of Chamber-hall ;

now

De la casa del Sr.

## VIEW OF CLAUDEPONT HALL.

*Multiplied by 22, 179, 19, 1* respectively. Respectively

Answer in, and



now Hopwood of Hopwood. The hat manufactory and that of strong fustians are carried on to a considerable extent in this town, chiefly for the Manchester market. Coals are found in great plenty in the several townships, which, besides supplying the neighbourhood, are sent in large quantities to Manchester. The price of those of the best quality is 5*d.* per cwt. at the pit. Branches of the rivers Irk and Irwell extend through these townships, by which a considerable number of machines are worked in the cotton and woollen manufactories. The soil is chiefly black loam and clay. Marl is met with in most parts. The produce of corn, potatoes, and other articles of provisions, is very inadequate to the supply of the inhabitants, who are chiefly fed out of the neighbouring counties. The enclosed land is estimated at about 3590 statute acres, and the waste land at 435. The trees are a little oak, ash, plane, and fir, chiefly in the hedge-rows. Lime for manure and other purposes is brought from the Peak in Derbyshire and from Ardwick, and comes high. A good deal of hay is brought every year from Yorkshire and Cheshire. The poor's rate for 1793 was about 3*s.* per pound of the full value of land. The farms are small. The value of land varies from 7*s.* to 7*l.* per acre, seven yards to the perch. The tithe of grain is taken in kind. The small tithes are compounded for by a small modus. A turnpike road from Manchester to Huddersfield runs through Oldham, and another from Mumps near Oldham through Lees and Saddleworth joins the former at Stand-edge.

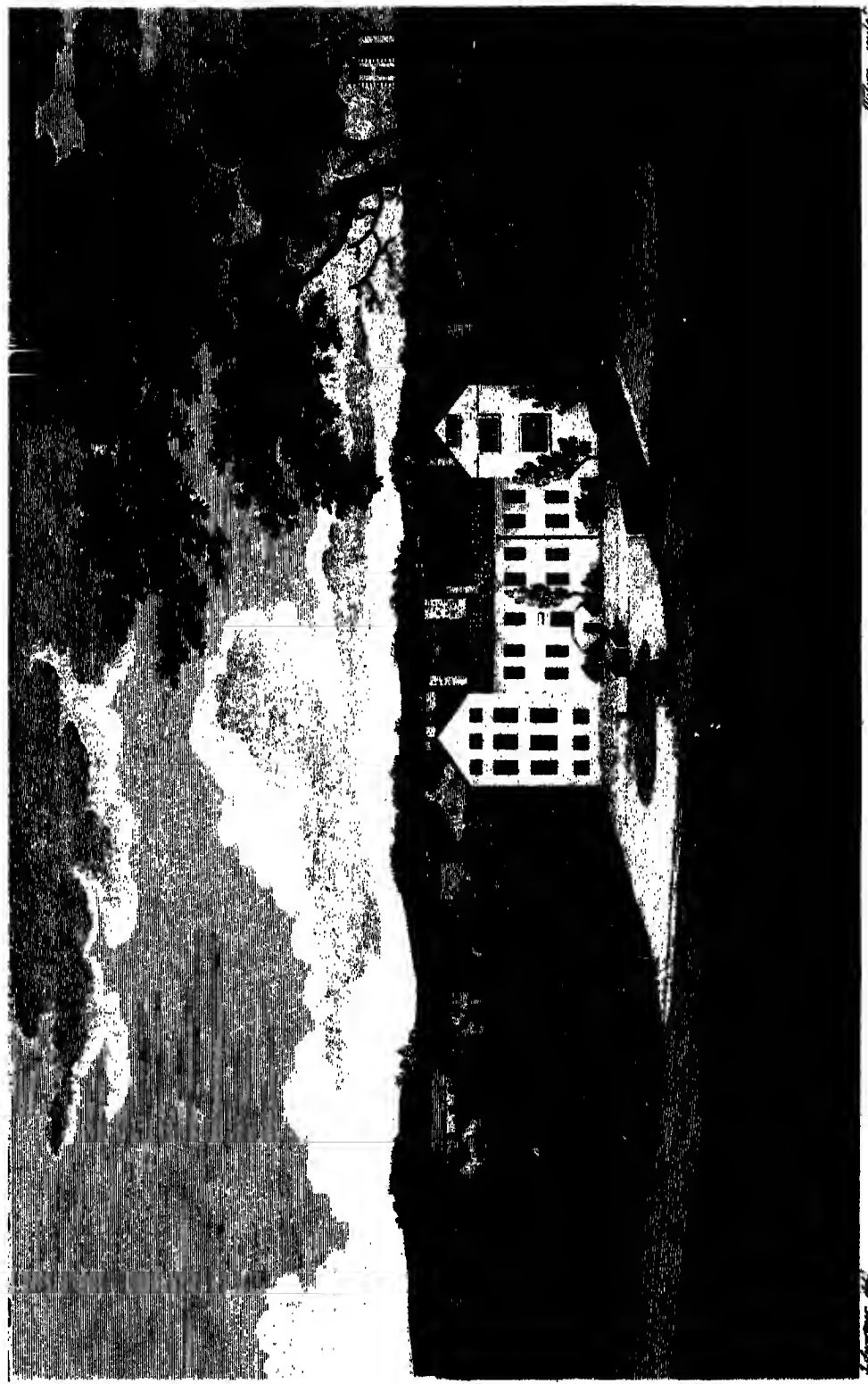
ROYTON, ten miles east of Manchester, contains 576 statute acres of enclosed land, and has (Octob. 1793) 424 inhabited and 26 new houses, total 450; and 2511 inhabitants. Of the houses, only 118 are assessed to the window tax, though almost all the omitted ones are rated

rated to the church and poor. There are in this township five mills moved by water, four horse mills for carding cotton, one fulling mill for the Rochdale baizes manufactured in the neighbourhood, and one large malt kiln. From this variety of employ population has more than doubled since 1772, in which year the inhabitants were 1105.

The soil is for the most part dry and sandy, a few acres only wanting draining. There is no waste land. The proportion of arable is small to that of meadow and pasture. The manures are marl, got in the township; lime, brought from Ardwick near Manchester or Buxton; and black muck. The products are oats, potatoes, and a few turnips; seldom any wheat, the vicinity of the hills making it subject to mildew from damp. These are consumed on the spot, but are not sufficient for the wants of the people, who are supplied from the Manchester market. The timber is in hedge-rows and some small plantations. There are no woods. The farms are small, from 10 to 30 and 40<sup>l</sup>. per annum. The rent per acre very various, the meadows highest. Tithes are compounded for at 7s. 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. per acre, Lancashire measure, for oats, and double that for wheat. The greater part of the vicarial tithes are compounded for by a modus, and paid with the Easter dues. The living is a chapelry under Prestwich, value about eighty pounds; present curate, Rev. Richard Berry. The chapel was erected by subscription in 1754. There is a quaker's meeting-house in the township.

Three branches of the *Irk* take their rise in this township, as also one of the *Bail*, a stream which joins the Roch. These streams are subject to frequent floods from the quantity of rain which falls here, but on account of the height of the ground they soon subside.





VIEW OF ROYTON HALL.



The manufactures of the place are the different branches of the cotton trade, especially the heavy fustians. The raw materials come from Manchester by land carriage, and the made goods are sent thither to the Tuesday's markets. A number of hands are also employed by the *putters-out* on account of the merchants in Manchester. The manufactures employ all the people, except some colliers, shop-keepers, and husbandmen. The gains are from 2*d.* per day by young children, to 3*s.* 6*d.* and 4*s.* by grown people. Women will sometimes earn 16 and 17*s.* per week by spinning with a jenny.

Coals are a considerable product in this township, more than half of it containing valuable beds of this mineral. They have been worked here about 100 years back. The present price at the pit is 10*d.* the horse load, weighing 280lb. and measuring two baskets, each thirty inches by twenty, and ten inches deep. The quantity worked is, by the nearest computation, about 315 tons 17½ cwt. per week. They lie from 20 yards to 100 and upwards from the surface, in different beds, dipping to the S. S. W. one yard in five and a half. Some of the beds are six feet thick. The coals are sent to Manchester and other parts in the neighbourhood in carts. Some free-stone is got in the township, and sold at 4*d.* per foot.

There is a good chalybeat spring in the township.

*Royton-hall*, the seat of Joseph Pickford, Esq. formerly belonged, together with vast possessions in these parts, to the lords Biron. It is pleasantly seated in a deep valley, surrounded by high grounds. It is a firm, well-built stone edifice of ancient date, remarkable for an uncommonly strong and heavy round staircase, like that of a church, but  
 . more

more maffy. In the front of the houfe runs a fmall fream, dividing the gardens from rich meadows. The annexed view gives a juft representation of the houfe, and part of the town of Royton, with a fummer-houfe in the adjoining walled park, built upon a hill called the Sun Low, whence is a very extenfive profpect of the circumjacent country, as far as the Welch mountains.

A very providential efcape from danger which happened in the houfe of Mr. Pickford, is worth recording. On April 10th, 1790, in the morning, a tremendous gult of wind blew down two very large chimnies in the front of the houfe, each raifed to the height of eighteen feet, in order to prevent fmoaking. They fell acrofs the weft gable roof covered with thick and ponderous flates, broke the beams, and brought the whole down together through three heights of chambers, into the cellars. Two of Mr. Pickford's daughters were in bed in the uppermoft chamber, and one in that beneath. Their beds with all the furniture were fhivered to pieces. Two of the young ladies were precipitated into the cellar; one of whom was foon difcovered scrambling up the rubbifh, without any material hurt, having only received fome flight bruizes on the head and arms. The other, who was buried in the rubbifh, was found in about twenty minutes, after the exertions of a number of neighbours, lying in the midft of a feather-bed, not at all injured except by the fright. The third was caught in the fecond floor, acrofs a beam, and fixed down by a heavy piece of wood. She was much bruifed and hurt, but had no bones broken except one or two of her ribs and recovered after a month's confinement in bed. Their maid, who was juft retiring from the door after calling them up, when the accident happened, was confued in the narrow fpace of the door-way, and obliged to remain in that fituation till the carpenter relieved her

from it by cutting the door from the hinges ; for had it been pushed open, she would have fallen headlong down the breach.

CHADERTON contains a chapel of the establishment. In this township is situated *Chaderton-hall*, the residence of the ancient family of the Hortons, much improved by the present owner, Sir Watts Horton. It is rather a modern house, built of brick, and nearly surrounded by shrubberies and pleasure-grounds, laid out with great taste. In the front of the house is a beautiful park, from several eminences in which are delightful prospects. The park contains several clumps of trees, and much fine timber. A commodious shooting-ground is laid out within view of the house, for the amusement of the archers in the neighbourhood, who frequently resort to this hospitable retreat. Sir Watts possesses some valuable paintings. The annexed view is taken from the park, at a small distance from the fir-trees which appear in the fore-ground. On the right, near the house, is an elevation which was formerly a tumulus, a considerable part of which has been lately taken away. Several relics of antiquity were dug up on the occasion.

Chaderton also contains a seat of Robert Ratcliffe, Esq. of Fox-Denton.

CROMPTON has a chapel of the establishment.

The increase of population in the parish of Oldham will appear from the following comparison of three periods :

## MIDDLETON PARISH.

	<i>Years</i>	1714.		1789.		1792.
Oldham (families)		433	- -	2003	- -	2370
Chaderton do.		190	- -	601	- -	628
Royton do.	-	65	- -	396	- -	432
Crompton do.	-	218	- -	479	- -	514

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## MIDDLETON PARISH.

THE parish of Middleton is of large extent, and comprises seven or eight hamlets, consisting altogether of between 7 or 8000 statute acres. The parish church and town of Middleton are pleasantly situated, with the great road leading from York to Manchester passing by that, and through the town. It is fifty-nine miles from York, five and a half from Rochdale, and six and half from Manchester. The township of Middleton and much the greater part of the parish have long been in the possession of the family of the Ashetons, even previously to the 1st of Richard III. anno 1483, at which time an extraordinary grant passed to Sir Randolph Asheton, as lord of the manor of Middleton. This property was increased, and remained in the possession of the Ashetons until 1766, when the late Sir Raphe Asheton, Bart. whose ancestors had been created so in 1620, dying without male issue, the estates devolved to his two daughters as co-heiresses, the eldest of whom, before the death of Sir Raphe Asheton, was married to the present lord Suffield of Gunton in Norfolk; and in three or four years afterwards the youngest was married to the present lord Grey de Wilton, of Heaton, in Lancashire. The ancient family seat at Middleton,

the manor and presentation to the rectory of Middleton, together with that township, and other adjoining property, are now in the possession of lord Suffield, and the village of Middleton is rapidly increasing. Many buildings have been erected, and a grant from the crown was obtained in 1791 for holding a weekly market on a Friday, and three fairs annually, viz. on the first Thursday after the 10th of March, the first Thursday after the 15th of April, and the second Thursday after the 29th of September, for the sale of all kinds of cattle, goods, and merchandize, &c.; and for the accommodation of those who resort thither, lord Suffield has, at a very considerable expense, erected warehouses, and an elegant market house, as well as shambles adjoining. The market, though in its infancy, is well supplied with butcher's meat and other provisions.

The neighbourhood is populous, and nothing will more forcibly point out the increasing population of this place, than the annexed extract from the parish register. Yet we must further state, that though little more than twenty years since there were scarcely more than twenty houses in the village, there are now between 4 and 500, which contain more than 2000 inhabitants. Buildings are increasing daily, and we here view with pleasure the outlines of what one day promises to be a great flourishing town.

The police of the town is managed by two constables chosen annually at the court leet held in and for the manor. The church, a rectory, is dedicated to St. Leonard, and is most delightfully situated on a small hill. It is a venerable old structure, has a peal of six sweet bells, and, together with the plantation adjoining, forms an agreeable object, and heightens much the scenery of the adjacent country. The body

of the church was lately very neatly pewed, and two galleries erected on the north and south, at the expense of the parish. In this church are deposited the remains of the ancient family of the Ashetons, who for many centuries resided in this parish. The Rev. Richard Asheton, D. D. and warden of Christ's college in Manchester, is the present rector, who resides in a neat parsonage house not far distant from the church. The hall, a mansion house, formerly the place of residence of the Asheton family, is part ancient and part modern. It is at present unoccupied by any person except the steward; what was once the park lies a short distance from the house, but is now in a great measure inclosed. The free grammar school is pleasantly situated in a valley just below the church, upon the banks of the river Irk. It was founded by Dr. Alexander Nowel, then dean of St. Paul's, and principal of Brazen-nose-college in Oxford, in the year 1572, and endowed with a small stipend for two masters, wherein for some years past have been educated seldom fewer than 150 children. The present head master is the Rev. James Archer. The river Irk rises a few miles from, and passes close by, the town. The soil of the country round this place is in general sand and a strong clay: the proportion of arable land to pasture is about four acres to twenty. The crop grown principally is oats and potatoes. The size of the farms in general is from twenty to thirty acres, which are occupied mostly by weavers, who alternately engage themselves in the pursuits of husbandry, and the more lucrative one of the shuttle. The rent of land is various, being from 40s. an acre (customary measure) to 10/. The inhabitants are well supplied with coals at a moderate price and easy distance. The cotton trade is carried on in this place in all its different processes. A large twist manufactory is established here, and very considerable printing and bleaching works.

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The weaving of filk was originally more general than at present, but now gives way to the more profitable branches of muslin and nankcen.

We know of no particular disease which the inhabitants are subject to, and from its good air and water we consider it as a peculiarly healthy situation.

The following extracts from the register will show the progressive increase of population in this parish.

From Nov. 1582 to ditto 1590.

Marriages 46.	Baptisms.	{ Males 117.	Burials -	134
		{ Females 94		
		211		

From April 1680 to ditto 1699.

Marriages 108.	Baptisms	{ Males 191	Burials	{ Males 212
		{ Females 190		{ Females 126
		381		338

From 1780 to 1784 inclusive, five years.

Baptisms	{ Males 465	Burials	{ Males 246
	{ Females 456		{ Females 280
	921		526

From 1785 to 1789 inclusive, five years.

Baptisms	{ Males 589	Burials	{ Males 324
	{ Females 544		{ Females 371
	1131		695

Marriages for the above ten years, 490.

Marriages for ten years, from Jan. 1784 to Dec. 1793, 588.

## ROCHDALE PARISH.

THE parish of Rochdale is of great extent, measuring from east to west, nine miles ; and from north to south, eleven ; and, except on the wild moors, is full of inhabitants, the number of which is estimated at 50,000 souls, of which about 10,000 are resident in the town.

The townships in the parish are four : *Hundersfield, Spotland, Butterworth, and Castleton*. The inclosed land (except in the last-named township, which is chiefly of a sandy soil) is mostly of clay and black earth, which under the care of good farmers yields great crops, especially in the meadows. The corn grown is chiefly oats ; but the whole quantity of grain raised is so much short of the consumption of the inhabitants, that perhaps nineteen parts in twenty of what is used are brought out of the counties of York, Nottingham, Lincoln, &c. or coast-wise from Wales and the south of England, to the ports of Liverpool and Hull. The rent of good land in this parish is as high as in most parts of England. Meadow land may be averaged at 3*l.* 10*s.* per acre, Lancashire measure, (forty-nine yards to the pole ; ) but near the town, little or none is let under 7*l.* and some as high as 9*l.* The farms, being generally occupied by manufacturers, are small, seldom exceeding 70*l.* per annum. William lord Byron is lord of the manor, and takes his seat as an English peer under the title of baron Byron of Rochdale. At his court leet, the officers and constables for the civil government of the parish are annually appointed.

The vicarage of Rochdale is superior in value to every other living of that description in the kingdom. In the valuation of livings made in

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the reign of Henry VIII. it is rated as low as 11*l.* 4*s.* 9½*d.* a sum that little, if at all, exceeds a hundredth part of its present produce. Probably no other in England has increased in an equal proportion. The emoluments arise from lands and houses. It is in the gift of the archbishop of Canterbury, to whom the tithes belong, which are let for a term of years. Nine chapels of ease belong to the church of Rochdale, viz. St. Mary's in the town, Littleborough, Milnrow, Todmorden, Whitworth, Friermeer, Lydyate, Saddleworth, and Dobcross; most of them in the patronage of the vicar, Dr. Thomas Drake.

The town of Rochdale is situated in a vale, through the middle of which runs the river Roch, which joins the Irwell below Bury. Besides the places of worship of the establishment, it has a meeting-house of the presbyterians, another of the baptists, and a very large building lately erected for the methodists. There are two charity-schools, viz. a free-grammar school founded by archbishop Parker, and an English free-school endowed by Mrs. Hardman, deceased. Sixteen Sunday schools have been established since 1784. The rapid increase of inhabitants will appear from the following extract from the register of the parish church alone:

Years.	Christ.	Bur.	Mar.	Years.	Christ.	Bur.	Mar.
1700	268	177	91	1760	355	255	160
1710	210	212	66	1770	457	403	144
1720	231	206	57	1780	517	392	185
1730	307	247	99	1790	618	644	238
1740	275	228	66	1791	673	504	279
1750	308	261	110	1792	746	646	339

A melancholy reduction appears in the yearly bill for 1794, the articles being, *Christ.* 373; *Bur.* 671; *Mar.* 199.

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The markets, on Mondays and Saturdays, are supplied chiefly from Manchester with meal, fruit, vegetables, and roots of all kinds. The unfold flesh meat at Manchester Saturday's market is sometimes carried to Rochdale, but the substantial butchers there get their chief supply of sheep and cattle from the fortnight fairs at Skipton and Wakefield. The bread in common use at Rochdale is oat-cakes, of which they make brewis by pouring on them broth and the skimming of the pot. This is eaten with black puddings, for the making of which this place is noted. The use of oat-cake extends from this town over most of the West-Riding of Yorkshire, insomuch that a regiment first raised in these districts is called the Haver-cake regiment, and recruiting parties for it commonly beat up with an oat-cake mounted on a sword's point.

Three fairs are held annually in Rochdale, on May 14th, Whitfun-Tuesday, and November 7th, for cattle, horses, toys, &c.

There is no prison in the town, offenders being sent to the house of correction for the hundred in Manchester.

A small, but very neat playhouse has lately been erected under the management of Mr. Stanton.

The parish of Rochdale, though not able to boast of its fertile corn-fields, is yet rich in the mineral products of slate, stone, and coal. It is also, and has long been, distinguished for its trade. A branch of the woollen manufacture is its staple, of which the principal articles are bays, flannels, kerseys, coatings, and cloths, the greatest part of which are sent abroad to Holland, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Russia, and Germany. Part of these are exported or sent to London by the York-

shire merchants ; but considerable quantities are sent directly abroad by the merchants of Rochdale itself. The manufactures extend eight or ten miles to the north of the town. The cotton trade has likewise spread greatly in the neighbourhood ; and a very considerable hat manufacture is in an increasing state.

Rochdale hitherto has not had the advantage of a navigation ; but a canal is now cutting which will connect it with the navigable river Calder on the one side, and with the duke of Bridgewater's canal at Manchester on the other ; and thus afford a communication with the ports of Liverpool and Hull, and with the whole system of internal canal navigation. Upwards of 290,000*l.* has been subscribed to carry this scheme into execution, which must be of the greatest benefit to the town, as well in respect to its manufactures, as its supply of provisions and merchandize.

The ancient families of note in the parish are Chadwick of Healey, Entwistle of Foxholes, Buckley of Buckley, Townley of Belfield, Hamer of Hamer, Halliwell of Pike-house, Bamford of Shore. There are likewise other gentlemen of considerable landed property in the parish, who are also engaged in its commercial concerns.

In the chapelry of Whitworth reside Messrs. John and George Taylor, better known by the name of the *Whitworth Doctors*. The fame of these rustic artists is almost equal to that of the celebrated Swiss doctor, mentioned by Mr. Coxe, and has spread not only over their more immediate neighbourhood, but to remote parts of the kingdom, and even the metropolis itself. They are chiefly noted for setting broken and dislocated bones, and for the cure of cancerous and other

tumours by caustics, properly termed by themselves *Keen*. Not less than 100 persons annually take lodgings in Whitworth to be under their care, besides the great resort of occasional visitants. With very reasonable charges they have realized handsome fortunes, which they enjoy with the general esteem of their neighbours.

Rochdale and its vicinity may be considered as the centre of the genuine *Lancashire dialect*; a variety of the English tongue, which, though uncouth to the ear, and widely differing in words and grammar from cultivated language, is yet possessed of much force and expression. Its peculiar aptness for humorous narrative has been displayed in the noted dialogue containing the adventures of a Lancashire clown, of which this district is the scene, written by Mr. Collier, under the name of *Tim Bobbin*. The following memoirs of this person, obligingly communicated to us by Richard Townley, Esq. will, we doubt not, agreeably entertain our readers.

### ACCOUNT OF TIM BOBBIN,

MR. JOHN COLLIER, alias TIM BOBBIN, was born near Warrington in Lancashire.\* His father, a clergyman of the established church, had a small curacy, and for several years taught a school. With the joint income of those, he managed so as to maintain a wife and several children decently, and also to give them a tolerable share of

\* Mr. Wardleworth, master of the free school at Mottram, assures us that he was born at Harrison's Fold, near this village. He was intimately connected with him from his youth.

useful learning, until a dreadful calamity befell him, about his 40th year, the *total* loss of sight. His former intentions of bringing up his son John, of whose abilities he had conceived a favourable opinion, to the church, were then over, and he placed him out an apprentice to a Dutch loom-weaver, at which business he worked more than a year; but such a sedentary employment not at all according with his volatile spirits and eccentric genius, he prevailed upon his master to release him from the remainder of his servitude. Though then very young, he soon commenced itinerant school-master; going about the county from one small town to another, to teach reading, writing, and accounts; and generally having a night school (as well as a day one) for the sake of those whose necessary employments would not allow their attendance at the usual school hours. In one of his adjournments to the small, but populous town of Oldham, he had intimation that Mr. Pearson, curate and schoolmaster at Milnrow, near Rochdale, wanted an assistant in the school; to that gentleman he applied, and, after a short examination, was taken in by him to the school, and he divided his salary, twenty pounds a year, with him. This Tim considered as a material advance in the world, as he still could have a night school, which answered very well in that very populous neighbourhood, and was considered by him too as a state of independency, a favourite idea *ever afterwards* with his high spirit. Mr. Pearson, not very long afterwards, falling a martyr to the gout, my honoured father gave Mr. Collier the school, which not only made him happy in the thought of being *more* independent, but made him consider himself as a *rich* man. Having now more leisure hours by dropping his night-school there, though he continued to teach at Oldham and some other places during the vacations of Whitsuntide and Christmas, he began to instruct himself in music and drawing, and soon was such a proficient in both as to be able to instruct

others very well in those amusing arts. The hautboy and *common* flute were his chief instruments, and upon the former he very much excelled, the fine modulations that have since been acquired or introduced upon that noble instrument, being then unknown to all in England. He drew landscapes in good taste, understanding the rules of perspective, and attempted some heads in profile, with very decent success; but it did not hit his humour, for I have heard him say, when urged to go on in that line, that drawing heads and faces was as dry and insipid as leading a life without frolic and fun, unless he was allowed to *steal in* some lears of comic humour, or give it a good dash of the caricature. Very early in life he discovered some poetic talents, or rather an easy habit for humorous rhyme, by several anonymous squibs he sent about in ridicule of some notoriously absurd, or very eccentric characters; these were fathered upon him very justly, which created him some enemies but more friends. I had once in my possession some humorous relations, in tolerable rhyme, of his own frolic and fun with persons he met with, of the like description, in his hours of festive humour, which was sure to take place when released for any time from school duty, and not too much engaged in his lucrative employ of painting. The first regular poetic composition which he published was styled the *Blackbird*, containing some spirited ridicule upon a Lancashire justice, more renowned for political zeal and ill-timed loyalty, than good sense or discretion. In point of easy, regular versification, perhaps this was his best specimen, and it also exhibited some strokes of *true* humour. About this period of his life he fell *seriously* in love with a handsome young woman, a daughter of Mr. Clay of Flocton, near Huddersfield, and soon afterwards took her unto him for wife, or as he used to style her, his crooked rib, who in proper time increased his family, and proved to be a virtuous, discreet, sensible, prudent woman; a good wife, and

an excellent mother. His family continuing to increase nearly every year, the hautboy, flute, and *amusing* pencil were pretty much discarded, and the brush and pallet taken up *seriously*. He was chiefly engaged for some time in painting altar pieces for chapels, and signs for publicans, which pretty well rewarded the labours of his vacant hours from school attendance ; but after some time family expenses increasing more with his growing family, he devised, and luckily hit upon, a more lucrative employment for his leisure time—this was copying Dame Nature in some of her humorous deformities and grotesque sportings with the human race (especially where the visage had the greatest share in those sportings) into which his pencil contrived to throw some pointed features of grotesque humour ; such as were best adapted to excite risibility, as long as such strange objects had the advantage of novelty to recommend them. These pieces he worked off with uncommon celerity ; a single portrait in the leisure hours of two days at least, and groups of three or four, in a week : as soon as finished, he was wont to carry or send them to the first-rate inns at Rochdale and Littleborough in the great road to Yorkshire, with the lowest prices fixed upon them, the inn-keepers willingly becoming Tim's agents. The droll humour, as well as singularity of style of those pieces, procured him a most ready sale from riders-out, and travellers of other descriptions, who had heard of Tim's character. These whimsical productions soon began to be in such general repute, that he had large orders for them, especially from merchants in Liverpool, who sent them upon speculation into the West Indies and America. He used at that time to say, that if Providence had ever meant him to be a *rich* man, that would have been the proper time, especially if she had kindly bestowed upon him two pair of hands instead of one ; but whenever cash came in readily it was sure to go merrily : a cheerful glass with a joyous com-

panion was so much in unison with his own disposition, that a temptation of that kind could never be resisted by *poor Tim*; so the season to grow rich never arrived, but Tim remained *poor Tim* to the end of the chapter.

Collier had been for many years collecting, not only from the rustics in his own neighbourhood, but also wherever he made excursions, all the awkward, vulgar, obsolete words and *local* expressions which ever occurred to him in conversation amongst the lower classes. A very retentive memory brought them safe back for insertion into his vocabulary or glossary, and from thence he formed and executed the plan of his *Lancashire dialect*; which he exhibited to public cognizance, in the adventures of a Lancashire Clown, formed from some rustic sports and gambols, and also some whimsical modes of circulating fun, at the expense of silly, credulous boobies, amongst the *then* *cheery* gentlemen of that *peculiar* neighbourhood. This publication, from its novelty, together with some *real* strokes of comic humour interlarded into it, took very much with the middle and lower classes of the people in the northern counties, (and I believe every where in the southern too, where it had the chance of being noticed) so that a new edition was soon necessary. This was a matter of exultation to Tim, but not of very long duration; for the rapid sale of that second edition soon brought forth two or three *pirated* editions, which made the honest, unsuspecting owner exclaim with great vehemence, "That he did not believe " there was *one* honest printer in Lancashire;" and afterwards to lash some of the most culpable of those insidious offenders with his keen, sarcastic pen, when engaged in drawing up a preface to a future publication.



The above-named performances, with his pencil, his brush, and his pen, made Tim's name and repute for whimsical archness pretty generally known, not only within his native county, but also through the adjoining districts in Yorkshire and Cheshire; and his repute for a peculiar species of pleasantry in his hours of frolic, often induced persons of much higher rank to send for him to an inn (when in the neighbourhood of his residence) to have a *personal* specimen of his uncommon drollery. Tim was seldom backwards in obeying a summons to good cheer, and seldom, I believe, disappointed the expectations of his generous hosts; for he had a wonderful flow of spirits, with an inexhaustible fund of humour, and that too of a very peculiar cast. Blessed with a clear, masculine understanding, and a keen discernment into the humours and foibles of others, he knew how to make the best advantage of those occasional interviews, in order to promote *trade*, as he was wont to call it; though his natural temper was very far from being of a mercenary cast; it was often rather too free and generous, more so than prudence, with respect to his family, would advise, for he would sooner have had a *lenten* day or two at home, than done a shabby or mean thing abroad.

Amongst other persons of good fortune who often called upon him at Milnrow, or sent for him to spend a few hours with him at Rochdale, was a Mr. Richard Hill of Kibroid and Halifax in Yorkshire, then one of the greatest cloth merchants, and also one of the most considerable manufacturers of baizes and shalloons, in the north of England. This gentleman was not only fond of his humorous conversation, but also had taken up an opinion that he would be highly useful to him as his head clerk in business, from his being very ready at accounts, and writing a most beautiful *small* hand in any kind of type, but especially in imitation

tion of *printed*\* characters. After several fruitless attempts, he at last, by offers of an extravagant salary, prevailed upon Mr. Collier to enter into articles of service for three years certain, and to take his family to Kibroid. After signing and sealing, he called upon me to give me notice that he must resign the school, and to thank me for my long continued friendship to him. At taking leave, he, like the honest Moor,

Albeit unused to the melting mood,  
Dropp'd tears as fast as the *Arabian* trees  
Their medicinal gum,

and in faltering accents entreated me not to be hasty in filling up the vacancy in that school, where he had lived so many years contented and happy ; for he had *already* some forebodings that he should never relish his new situation and new occupation. I granted his request, but hoped he would soon reconcile himself to his new situation, as it promised to be so advantageous both to himself and to his family. He replied, it was for the sake of his wife and children that he was at last induced to accept Mr. Hill's *very tempting* offers ; no other consideration whatever could have made him give up Milnrow school and independency.

About two month's afterwards, some business of his master's bringing him to Rochdale market, he took that opportunity of returning by Belfield. I instantly perceived a wonderful change in his looks ; that countenance that used ever to be gay, serene, or smiling, was then covered and disguised with a pensive, settled gloom. On asking him

\* The Lord's Prayer in the size of a split pea of the *garden* kind ; the Apostle's Creed in the size of a sixpence, both most distinct.

how he liked his new situation at Kibroid, he replied, Not at all ; then enumerating several causes for discontent, concluded with an observation, that he never could abide the ways of that country, for they neither keep *red letter* days themselves, nor allow their servants to keep any.—Before he left me, he passionately entreated that I would not give away the school, for he should never be happy again till he was seated in the crazy old elbow chair, within his *old* school. I granted his request, being less anxious to fill up the vacancy, as there were two other free schools for the same uses, within the same townships, which have decent salaries annexed to them.

Some weeks afterwards I received a letter from Tim, that he had some hopes of getting released from his vassalage ; for that the father\* having found out what very high wages his son had agreed to give him, was exceeding angry with him for being so extravagant in his allowance to a clerk ; that a violent quarrel betwixt them had been the consequence, and from that circumstance he meant, at least hoped, to derive some advantage in the way of regaining his liberty, which he lingered after and panted for as much as any galley-slave upon earth.

Another letter announced, that his master perceiving that he was dejected, and had lost his wonted spirits and cheerfulness, had hinted to him, that if he disliked his present situation, he should be released from his articles at the end of the year ; concluding his letter with a *most earnest imploring*, that I would not dispose of the school before that time. By the interposition of the old gentleman and some others, he got the agreement cancelled a considerable time before the year expired ; and

\* The father and son were not in partnership, but carried on distinct branches of the woollen trade.

the evening of the day, when that liberation took place, he hired a large Yorkshire cart to bring away bag and baggage by six the next morning to his own house\* at Milnrow. When he arrived upon the west side of Blackston-edge, he thought himself once more a *free man*, and his heart was as light as a feather. The next morning he came up to Belfield to know if he might take possession of his school again, which being readily consented to, tears of gratitude instantly streamed down his cheeks, and such a suffusion of joy illumined his countenance as plainly bespoke the heart being in unison with his looks. He then declared his *unalterable* resolution never more to quit the humble village of Milnrow: that it was not in the power of emperors, kings, or their prime ministers, to make him any offers, if so disposed, that would allure him from his tottering elbow chair, from his humble fare with liberty and contentment. A hint was thrown out that he must work hard with his pencil, his brush, and his pen, to make up the deficiency in income to his family—that he promised to do, and was as good as his promise, for he used double diligence, so that the inns at Rochdale and Littleborough were soon ornamented, more than ever, with ugly grinning old fellows, and mumbling old women on broomsticks, &c. &c.

Tim's last literary productions, as I recollect, were remarks upon the Rev. Mr. Whitaker's History of Manchester in two parts. The remarks will speak for themselves. There appeared rather too much seasoning and salt in some of them, mixed with a degree of acerbity, for which he was rather blamed.

\* His father-in-law built a very decent house for him and his daughter, upon a small plot of ground near the school on a 999 year lease, at the small chief of a shilling per ann.

Mr. Collier died in possession of his mental powers but little impaired, at near eighty years of age, and his eyes not so much injured as might have been expected from such a severe use of them during so long a space of time. His wife died a few years before him, but he left three sons and two daughters behind him. The sons were all attached to the pallet and brush, but in different branches of the mimetic art.

## RATCLIFFE PARISH.

THE parish of Ratcliffe consists only of the township of that name, and takes in a circuit of between six and seven measured miles. The number of houses contained in it is 399; of families, 409; and of inhabitants, 2032. The houses for the most part are of an inferior sort, and the inhabitants are chiefly weavers, crofters, or employed in the coal works which abound in this country. Those who live by farming in this parish are very few, and the lands are much divided. Nearly the whole is the property of the lord Grey de Wilton, who is likewise the patron of the rectory.

Year.	Bapts.	Burials.	Marr.	Year.	Bapts.	Burials.	Marr.
1700	12	23	4	1770	83	73	18
1710	32	22	9	1780	60	37	10
1720	36	14	9	1790	92	72	15
1730	25	44	5	1791	118	82	14
1740	28	38	10	1792	123	95	17
1750	61	53	15	1793	120	57	15
1760	75	24	16				

## B O L T O N.

*BOLTON-LE-MOORS*, so called to distinguish it from a town of the same name in the West-Riding of Yorkshire, has been known as the seat of a manufacture belonging to the system of the Manchester trade, as far back as that trade itself can be traced. Leland, in his Itinerary, notices the cottons (then a species of woollen manufacture) and coarse yarn which its markets afforded, and says that many villages in the moors around were employed in making those cottons. At that period, too, the coal-pits in its neighbourhood were wrought, which, with cannel and turf, afforded the fuel of the district. The early manufacture of fustians at Bolton has been mentioned in our account of the trade of Manchester, and it has continued to be celebrated for these and a variety of kindred articles to the present day. The barrenness of its situation has probably aided its progress in wealth and population by operating as a stimulus to the industry and ingenuity of the people. It is said that the manufactures originated from protestant refugees from Flanders; but this could not have been the case with those established before Leland's time, who lived in the reign of Henry VIII. Possibly, foreigners might have been the introducers of the *real cotton* branches, which succeeded to the coarse woollens so called.

In the civil wars of Charles the First's time, Bolton underwent a storm in 1644 from prince Rupert, in which many persons were killed: and in 1652, James earl of Derby, who had been taken in the battle of Worcester, was beheaded at Bolton, in retaliation, it was said; for the severities inflicted there under his command.

Bolton has no other magistrates than constables. It has a free-school, of which Ainsworth, author of the Latin Dictionary, was once a master. There are two principal fairs in the year, one in winter and the other in summer. The market is on Monday. It is supplied with oat-meal from both Preston and Manchester, besides from oats grown in the neighbourhood. Jannock or oat bread was formerly the only kind used at Bolton, and was proverbially as noted as Cheshire cheese. The cattle killed by the butchers are brought chiefly from Yorkshire, and mostly consist of Scotch cows, called cushes, fattened in Craven. So greatly is the consumption of flesh meat increased, that, whereas in the memory of some persons now living, not more than one cow used to be killed weekly in Bolton, or if two, the unfold beef used to be sent to Bury market,—before the beginning of the present war, a tanner in Anderton bought weekly thirty-five cow hides of the Bolton butchers, and yet was supposed not to take half the whole produce. The fruit and vegetables sold here come principally from the Manchester markets, or from the vicinity of Warrington, its own neighbourhood not being favourable to these productions.

In 1773 an enumeration was made of the inhabitants of the manor of Bolton, which gave the following results :

In the town of Bolton;	- - -	houses,	946	inhabitants,	4568
In Little Bolton and the manor	- ditto -	232	ditto	- -	771
Total:				1178	5339

So rapid was the increase after this period, that in 1789 an enumeration of the inhabitants of the township of Bolton gave the amount of:

of 11,739 persons; and the augmentation visibly went forwards till the beginning of the present war. Even at this time, notwithstanding the great numbers who have enlisted, houses for the working class are not procured without difficulty; and last summer many houses were built in the skirts of the town, which are now occupied. Upwards of a thousand children attend the Sunday schools of the methodists, and are instructed in their chapel by teachers without pay.

This original seat of the cotton trade is still the centre of the manufacture of ornamental or fancy goods. It is only by emigrants from this place that any branches of this trade have been transplanted elsewhere; but the most ingenious part of the workmanship still remains rooted as it were to the soil, and flourishes even amidst present discouragements so far, that the poor suffer less here than in any of the surrounding districts. The muslin trade is that which seems to answer best at present. Since the opposition of the populace to the use of machines for shortening labour has been quelled by convincing them of their utility, spinning factories have been erected throughout all the surrounding country, especially where water is plentiful. The streams near Bolton are too near their sources to furnish the water that large works require; there are few, therefore, in its neighbourhood of the larger kind, though several of the smaller. Much water is also occupied by the bleachers, who have extensive crofts here. The new and more expeditious mode of bleaching by the dephlogisticated marine acid is now generally known, but it is not often used unless when there is a very brisk demand for a particular sort of goods; for if great care be not taken, it is often injurious to the pieces, and takes out the marks. The want of water in this district is made up by the ingenious invention of the machines called mules, or *ball-in-the-wood* wheels, from



an old hall in the neighbourhood seated in a most romantic situation, in a part of which the inventor resided. This machine admits of a great number of spindles; the greatest yet known is 304. Had the inventor sought a patent, he might probably have acquired a large fortune; but some gentlemen in Manchester purchased the invention for 100*l.* and made it public.

The Bolton manufacturers almost universally repair to Manchester to sell their goods on the Tuesday, some few on the Thursday, and a great number on the Saturday, of every week. Manchester on those days is crowded with traders and makers of cotton goods from the country round, on the Tuesdays particularly. The goods are not exposed in a public hall as the Yorkshire cloths are; their vast quantity and variety would not admit of such a mode. The expenses of importing the raw materials, and the extent of the trade, have enabled men of some property to step in between the weaver and merchant, and to obtain a profit upon the materials and goods in every stage of their progress.

The fustian tax imposed about ten years ago was, of course, a matter of very near concern to the manufacturers of this place; and upon its repeal, obtained by the determined opposition of the people, and the able and active exertions of the gentlemen delegated from Manchester for the purpose, a silver cup was presented from Bolton to Mr. Thomas Walker and Mr. Richardson, with the following inscription, drawn up by Dornig Rasbotham, Esq. :—“ To ———, this cup is most  
 “ respectfully presented by the inhabitants of the town and neighbour-  
 “ hood of Bolton in the Moors, the original seat of the fustian manu-  
 “ facture in this kingdom, as a token of their gratitude for his lauda-  
 “ ble and unwearied exertions, in conjunction with his associates, in  
 “ soliciting,

“ soliciting, and in the year 1785, in procuring a repeal of an odious  
“ and oppressive tax upon stuffs made of cotton and linen mixed, or  
“ wholly of cotton wool.”

Bolton, as we have already noticed, is upon the eve of obtaining the benefit of a canal connecting it with Manchester, and with all the circuit of inland water communication. It will run along the edge of the hills on the banks of the Irwell and its tributary streams, through a most beautiful and romantic country. Thrice it is carried over these streams by aqueducts much grander than that at Barton-bridge. One is at Clifton; another at Prestolee; and a third, at least twenty yards high, and consisting of three arches, within two miles of Bolton. Coals, which alone can repay the expense of such an undertaking, are met with all round the town. Steam engines are much used, not only for draining the mines, but on a smaller scale, for drawing up the coals. But few of them are on the plan of Messrs. Bolton and Watt.

The neighbourhood of Bolton has been distinguished for producing men of great talents in mechanical invention, who have generally been wholly uneducated, and indebted only to native powers and the habit of observation. The most celebrated of these was Sir Richard Arkwright, of whom false pride and prejudice alone can think it derogatory to say, that he passed a great part of his life in the humble station of a barber in the town of Bolton. His mind was so ardently engaged in the improvements of the mechanism used in the manufactures, that he could scarcely keep himself above want by the exercise of his proper profession; but his perseverance and ingenuity were at length rewarded with a measure of opulence which nothing but the full tide of prosperity.

city in a commercial nation could bestow. His share of merit in invention has already been stated in the account of the trade of Manchester.

At *Smithels* an old hall to the north of Bolton, anciently belonging to the Fauconberg family, is still remaining a large wainscotted room, the pannels of which are adorned with upwards of fifty heads cut in the wood, which are supposed to represent different persons of the family. The hall has been much visited, on a superstitious account, by zealous protestants, in order to view the supposed impresson of a foot made in the stone floor by one Marth, a martyr, in the reign of queen Mary.

*Rivington*, in the parish of Bolton, is distinguished by a lofty hill crowned by a building called *Rivington Pike*, a conspicuous object to the country round. In this township some promising veins of lead and calamine were discovered many years since in the estate of Sir F. Standish, which were worked, and lead enough got to pay the expence. They have since been pursued by miners out of Derbyshire, but not much more has been done than to clear the old works of water. The veins follow the dip of a great rock into the estate of James Hammerton, Esq.

## B U R Y.

BURY is pleasantly situated about nine miles north of Manchester, with the Irwell running close on its west side, and the Roch about a mile's distance on the east, both which rivers unite about two miles below. In Leland's tour Bury is mentioned as a poor market, having a ruin of a castle by the parish church, which, with the town, belonged formerly to the Pilkingtons, but then to the earl of Derby. Yarn was made about the town. At the present day, Bury may be considered

as a considerable appendage to the cotton and woollen trades. It is a market-town of tolerable size, the market day on Thursday. The buildings are mostly of brick, and generally good. The church, which has been lately rebuilt, is very handsome. There are likewise a chapel of the establishment, and places of worship for the presbyterians, independents, and methodists. There is a very handsome free-school well endowed, with two masters, who have each a good house besides their salaries; and also a charity school for boys and girls. One half of the town is leasehold under the earl of Derby; the other half glebe, belonging to the rectory. The living, in the gift of the earl of Derby, is a very valuable one, and has of late years been much improved, owing to an act of parliament passed in 1764, empowering the rector for the time being to grant building leases for 99 years, renewable at any period in the interim as the rector and tenant can agree. By an account taken in 1773, the number of houses in Bury was 463; of families, 464; and of inhabitants, 2090. These numbers are supposed since that time to have doubled, from the natural increase, and the influx of new people. The following extract of the register of the parish church will show the progress of population during the last ten years.

	Marr.	Christ.	Bur.
From July 1784 to ditto 1785	167	411	257
———— 1785 to ditto 1786	166	425	291
———— 1786 to ditto 1787	135	450	222
———— 1787 to ditto 1788	137	457	373
———— 1788 to ditto 1789	159	468	266
———— 1789 to ditto 1790	160	456	357
———— 1790 to ditto 1791	185	481	257
———— 1791 to ditto 1792	182	477	239
———— 1792 to ditto 1793	156	530	255
———— 1793 to ditto 1794	196	481	272

The

The parish is large, and divided into the following townships : Tottington Higher and Lower End, Bury, Walmerfley, Heap, and Elton. The four last are commonly called the lordship of Bury, and are mostly leasehold, under the earl of Derby. The Tottingtons compose what is called the royal manor of Tottington. There are three chapels of ease in the parish, Holcombe, Edenfield, and Heywood.

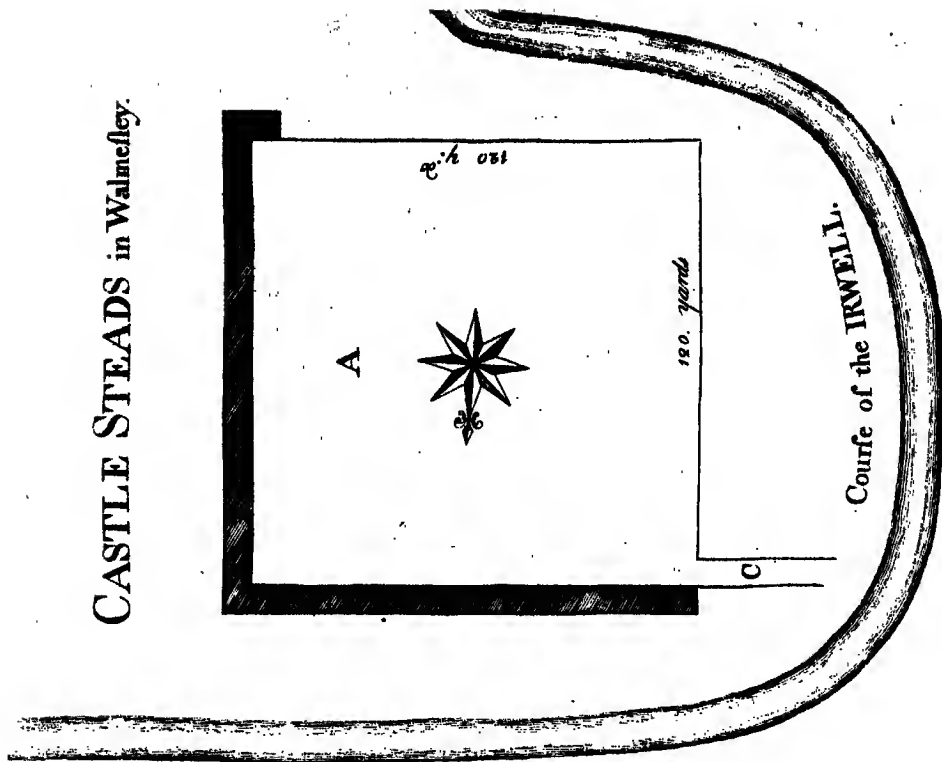
The cotton manufacture, originally brought from Bolton, is here carried on very extensively in most of its branches. A great number of factories are erected upon the rivers and upon many brooks within the parish, for carding and spinning both cotton and sheep's wool, also for fulling woollen cloth. The inventions and improvements here in different branches are astonishing. One of the most remarkable is a machine made by Mr. Robert Kay, son to the late Mr. John Kay, inventor of the wheel or flying shuttle, for making several cards at once to card cotton or wool. The engine straightens wire out of the ring, cuts it in lengths, staples it, crooks it into teeth, pricks the holes in the leather, puts the teeth in, row after row, till the cards are finished ; all which it does at one operation of the machine, in an easy and expeditious manner, by a person turning a shaft, and touching neither the wire nor leather.

Formerly there lived in this town Mr. Thomas Whitehead, who was at the same time clerk and apparitor, and also an ingenious artist. He was noted for being the first maker of a very serviceable metal button, much esteemed by country people, and still sold by the name of Clerk-of-Bury buttons.

The town and neighbourhood of Bury have been highly benefited by the establishment of the very capital manufacturing and printing works belonging to the Company, of which that very respectable gentleman, Robert Peel, Esq. member of parliament for Tamworth, is the head. The principal of these works are situated on the side of the Irwell, from which they have large reservoirs of water. There is likewise a separate reservoir supplied by a spring of fine clear water, which is used for the washing of goods when the river is muddied by floods. The articles here made and printed are chiefly the finest kinds of the cotton manufactory, and they are in high request both at Manchester and London. The printing is performed in the most improved methods, both by wooden blocks and copper rollers, and the execution and colours are some of the very best of the Lancashire fabric. The premises occupy a large portion of ground, and cottages have been built for the accommodation of the workmen, which form streets, and give the appearance of a village. Ingenious artists are employed in drawing patterns, and cutting and engraving them on wood and copper, and many women and children in mixing and pencilling the colours, &c. The Company has several other extensive works in the neighbourhood, as well on the Irwell as on the Roch. Some of these are confined to the carding, flubbing, and spinning of cotton; others to washing the cottons with water wheels, which go round with great velocity, but can be stopped in an instant for taking out and putting in the goods. Boiling and bleaching the goods are performed at other works. In short, the extensiveness of the whole concern is such as to find constant employ for most of the inhabitants of Bury and its neighbourhood, of both sexes and all ages, and notwithstanding their great number, they have never wanted work in the most unfavourable times. The peculiar healthiness of the people employed may be imputed partly to the judicious and humane regulations



# CASTLE STEADS in Walmesley.



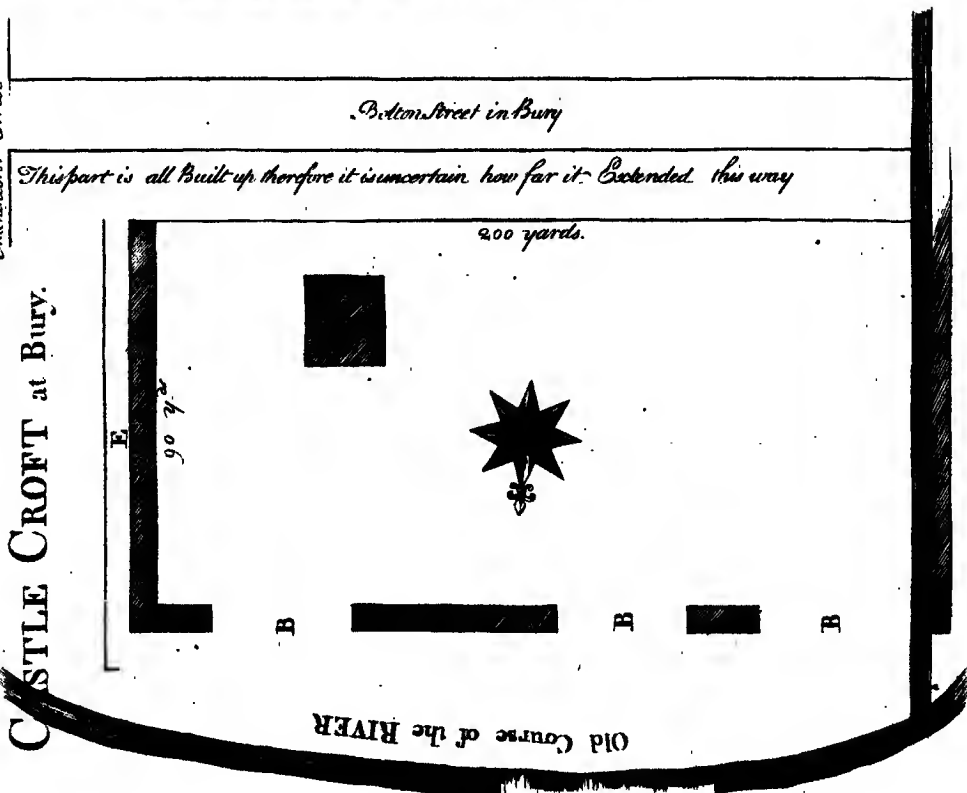
Plotted by the Surveyor General

# CASTLE CROFT at Bury.

Church yard

Manchester Street

*This part is all Built up therefore it is uncertain how far it Extended this way*





tions put in practice by Mr. Peel, and partly to the salubrity of the air and climate. At a short distance from Bury and the works is a large well-built house, called Chamber-hall, in which Mr. Peel himself resides, and in an adjoining meadow is a cottage or nursery for his young family. The whole is fitted up in a style of neatness and elegance, and surrounded with ornamental grounds and rising plantations.

The canal from Bury to Manchester, which will come within the breadth of the Irwell from Mr. Peel's works, will greatly facilitate the conveyance of goods and raw materials.

Tradition preserves the memory of two castles in and near Bury. One is at a field called *Castle Croft* close by the town of Bury, on its west side, about 80 yards from the cross. There are no remains of ancient buildings here, but in the adjacent gardens have often been dug up parts of the foundation walls. It was a good site for a fortress; and the old course of the river seems to have winded in the valley which skirts it below, where the printing and bleaching grounds of Messrs. Peel and Co. are situated. The other, viz. *Castle Steads* in Walmesley, placed in a bend of the Irwell, is said to have been only an entrenchment of the Parliament's army, when Bury was besieged, and its castle battered by cannon planted at the head of a wood in Walmesley. Nothing remains of these works but the name of the close, the tenant occupying it having levelled the trenches. Not far from thence, at a place called *Castle-hill*, there seems to have been in the feudal times a lordship of the royalty tenure, with power of imprisonment and execution of criminals. A hill just by is still called *Gallows-hill*.

The turnpike road from Bury northwards to Haslingden is an excellent one, being made with a coarse stone between flag and free stone,

of which material the houses and many of the fences of the country are constructed. The face of the country is greatly diversified with hills and vallies, in which many rivulets wind, of great service in working the numerous machines used in the thriving manufactures of these parts.

### BLACKBURN HUNDRED.

### BLACKBURN PARISH.

THE parish of Blackburn is one of the two parishes which comprehend almost the whole hundred of that name. This entire territory was bestowed by the Conqueror on Ilbert de Laci, one of his potent followers. He and his descendants parcelled it out again to their dependents, and most of the estates in the hundred derive their titles from these grants.

The *town of Blackburn* is seated in a bottom surrounded with hills. It has long been known as a manufacturing place, but within the memory of man the population was very inconsiderable to what it has lately been. It was formerly the centre of the fabrics sent to London for printing, called *Blackburn greys*, which were plains of linen warp shot with cotton. Since so much of the printing has been done near Manchester, the Blackburn manufacturers have gone more into the making of calicoes. The fields around the town are whitened with the materials lying to bleach. The town itself consists of several streets, irregularly laid out, but intermixed with good houses, the consequences of commercial wealth. Besides the parish church, there is a newly-  
erected

erected chapel of the establishment, and five places of worship for different persuasions of dissenters. There is a free-school in the town founded by queen Elizabeth, and a very good poor-house, with land appropriated to the use of the poor, where cattle may be pastured.

Blackburn has a market on Mondays, but its chief supply of provisions is from Preston, particularly the articles of butcher's meat and shelled groats. The latter are bought by the town's people about Michaelmas, ground to meal, and stowed in arks, where they are trodden down hard while new and warm, to serve for the year's bread, which is chiefly oat cakes. It has an annual fair on May-day, and a fortnight fair for cattle, chiefly milch kine.

The church of Blackburn before the reformation belonged to the Abbey of Whalley. The archbishop of Canterbury is now rector, and the living is served by a vicar, who has seven chapelries in his gift, but which are independent of him in point of revenue. Half of the site of the town belongs to the rector, who lets it on leases for twenty-one years. The tythes of the rectory are let to farmers, who compound by a modus, and rarely take in kind. A mortuary is due throughout the parish (which comprises twenty-four townships) for every house-keeper dying worth £.40 personalty free of debts. The value of land and price of provisions are increased here within the last fifty years in as great proportion as in most parts of the kingdom.

To the east of Blackburn is Forc-gate, where are some good new buildings. The new road to Haslingden, Bury, and Manchester, passes this way. A little to the south is a capital brewery, close by which the new canal from Leeds to Liverpool takes its course. A mile on

the

the Preston road is a large printing ground, and a factory for spinning cotton twist. On the south of the town lies Hoadley-hall, which, with its land, belongs to the rectory.

Extract from the parish register of Blackburn.

	Christ.	Bur.	Marr.
From Dec. 21, 1779 to ditto 1780	418	255	159
_____ 1780 to ditto 1781	431	484	180
_____ 1781 to ditto 1782	450	298	163
_____ 1782 to ditto 1783	353	232	168
_____ 1783 to ditto 1784	432	296	197
_____ 1784 to ditto 1785	502	432	210
_____ 1785 to ditto 1786	475	315	232
_____ 1786 to ditto 1787	541	287	186
_____ 1787 to ditto 1788	506	327	140
_____ 1788 to ditto 1789	431	388	176
_____ 1789 to ditto 1790	582	341	218
_____ 1790 to ditto 1791	539	361	240
_____ 1791 to ditto 1792	513	400	222
_____ 1792 to ditto 1793	495	400	225
_____ 1793 to ditto 1794	389	393	185

The land about Blackburn is in general barren, and much of it sandy. Coal is found in plenty in the southern end of the parish, and in several parts much stone slate is got, which is used for covering the houses. In one of the hills there is a mine of alum stone, which Fuller says was worked in his time, but had long been neglected on account of the increasing expense of removing the super-incumbent strata. When Sir G. Colebrook's project of monopolizing alum took place, he purchased  
and

and worked these mines ; but since its failure they have again fallen into neglect.

At *Darwen*, four miles south of Blackburn, there are plenty of coals. This was formerly a small village, but is now a populous district, manufacturing a large quantity of cotton goods. It contains two printing works, and there are a proportional number of mechanics and shopkeepers. Twenty years since, a return was made to Dr. Percival of a dissenting congregation here, consisting of 1850 individuals, among whom the annual proportion of births was more than double that of deaths. *Darwen* is in a bleak and elevated situation, surrounded with moors, and little cultivated.

## W H A L L E Y P A R I S H.

THIS large parish, comprising a great portion of Blackburn hundred, contains fifteen chapelries. *Whalley* itself is only a village. The parish church is a vicarage in the gift of the archbishop of Canterbury. In the church-yard are three remarkable crosses. Two are carved in a form similar to that of *Maen y Cwynfan*, in *Flintshire* ; the other is of an extremely eccentric shape. *Dugdale* supposes these to be some of those erections in the time of *Augustine* the monk, which were called crosses of the blessed *Augustine*. There is a small school at *Whalley* founded by *Edward VI.* This school and those of *Middleton* and *Burnley* have thirteen scholarships in *Brazen-nose College* in *Oxford*.

*Whalley-abbey*, a place formerly of great note and consequence in these parts, is seated on the bank of the river Calder, beneath the shade of a lofty brow clothed with trees impending over the opposite side. The boundaries of this religious house were very large. Two square towers yet remain with pointed gateways. Beneath are the ancient entrances to the place. One is finely vaulted, and the arch secured with stone ribs curiously intersecting each other. There are still left part of the conventual church, and some of the old dwelling part of the abbey. On a bow window are cut in stone several coats of arms of founders and benefactors, as the Lacies, the Stanlies, &c. There are the ruins of a vast length of room, perhaps the refectory, with windows on each side, some rounded, others pointed. Above this had been the lodging rooms. A great court lies to the west of these, and on one side is a great pile with two rows of rounded windows with Gothic stone work within.

The name of this place in the Saxon language was *Kaleleg*. Augustine, the first missionary of Christianity to this island, founded a church in these parts, which was long parochial to the wide tract of Blackburnshire and all Bolkind. As converts increased, more places of worship were erected. These had no particular patrons, but the lords of the soil in which they lay, appointed their relations or friends to the cure, who were called rectors, and were married men and persons of property. The country was at that time very thinly peopled; the bishops, therefore, left the government of these churches to the owners with the powers of deans, which style they bore among the people, and the office was hereditary. In the reign of Will. Rufus, the last dean being prohibited marriage by a council, conveyed the presentation of Whalley and its chapels to his relation John, constable of Chester, and  
lord

lord of Blackburn. Henry Lacy, earl of Lincoln, a successor of his, bestowed this church on the white monks of Stanlaw in Wirral, with the proviso, that if the number of monks should be augmented from forty to sixty, they should remove to Whalley. This was effected in 1296, when the new convent was built by the munificence of the earl, who translated to it the bones of his ancestors interred at Stanlaw. This abbey flourished till the year 1536; when, encouraged by Alke's rebellion, or the pilgrimage of grace, the abbots and monks of several convents who before had either surrendered their houses, or been driven out, repossessed themselves, and resumed their functions. Among them were the religious of this house, as well as others in the north. The earl of Shrewsbury, however, who commanded against the rebels, had them taken out, and martial law executed upon them. John Paskell, the 25th abbot, and one of his monks, were hanged at Lancaster. At the dissolution, the place was granted by Edward VI. to Richard Ashton of Darcy-Lever, a branch of the family of Middleton, together with great part of the demesne; the rest to John Braddyl, which his descendants still possess. Ashton made the abbey his residence. Considerable buildings were added, which still subsist, though in a ruinous state, a good specimen of ancient splendour. The gallery is a wainscotted room 150 feet long, and coarsely painted. The house and manor continued the property of the Ashtons till the present century, when it was transferred by marriage to the Curzons, to a branch of which family it now belongs.

## H A S L I N G D E N.

THIS is a small market town upon the turnpike road leading from Bury to Blackburn. The church stands upon the brow of a hill, which was also the situation of the old part of the town; but the buildings have now extended into the valley beneath. The river Swinanel skirts the western part of the town, and winds away through a populous country. Haslingden has been greatly improved within the last twenty years, chiefly from the increase of the woollen manufacture; though much of the cotton trade has likewise been introduced within a few years, particularly the branch of making twist for warps, for which purpose alone several factories have been erected in its neighbourhood.

The church is under the vicar of Whalley, who appoints a curate. It has been rebuilt about twenty years since, but the old steeple is left standing. The town is governed by a constable and six churchwardens, who have under their care six divisions, or posts, as they are here termed. Two of these divisions, however, have a chapel of ease of their own, subordinate to Haslingden, called *Goodshaw chapel*, situated about two miles on the Burnley road, and near it is a quaker's meeting-house, at a place called *Crawshaw Booth*.

The town and hamlets of Haslingden are reckoned now to contain about 3000 inhabitants, which is triple the number they contained forty years since. The people were at that time chiefly employed by monied men at Rochdale; but now the trade is supported by capitals acquired



on the spot by the industry and enterprising spirit of the manufacturers; who have erected inns for the entertainment of travellers, shops, and handsome houses for their own residence. A square is lately planned here, and some capital houses are already built in it. A turnpike road from Halifax to Blackburn runs through Haslingden, which is kept in excellent condition, from the goodness of the materials every where at hand. Some bulky goods, as oil for the woollen manufactory, treacle, &c. are brought from London by the Selby navigation into Yorkshire, and thence hither by land carriage; but the newly-projected canals will afford the benefit of water carriage directly to this neighbourhood. The following is an extract from the church register for the last twenty years..

Years.	Christ.	Bur.	Marr.	Years.	Christ.	Bur.	Marr.
1775	157	77	52	1785	210	124	72
1776	178	129	48	1786	206	113	72
1777	204	96	52	1787	237	119	68
1778	196	83	56	1788	201	133	56
1779	173	100	48	1789	200	151	64
1780	194	111	52	1790	228	146	68
1781	184	145	52	1791	213	125	52
1782	196	106	52	1792	251	147	56
1783	176	97	58	1793	210	169	72
1784	191	102	72	1794	165	171	52

A number of mills for carding cotton and sheep's-wool, and spinning them into cotton twist and woollen yarn for the flannels made here, are erected upon the Swinnel. There is also a corn-mill on the river, formerly belonging to the Holden family, now extinct, whose hall, an ancient

ancient mansion, stands about a mile from Haslingden. Near it is Cold-lutch-bank, under a hill from which the finest flags and slate are quarried out. On the other side stands Todd-hall, an old mansion. Hud-hey on the Blackburn road is another ancient residence, near which stands Carter-place, belonging to Mr. Taylor, a handsome house built of the excellent stone abounding in this country. In the Grane post or district are many good houses, some of them ancient.

About five miles from Haslingden on the Whalley road is the ancient mansion of *Dungnow*, belonging to lord Petre, where a priest of the Roman Catholic religion is still kept. It is situated in a noble park, and some antiquities worth notice yet exist in it. At this house was formerly entertained an ideot, called *Nick of Dungnow*, of whose simplicity, united with a natural shrewdness, many tales are still current in popular tradition.

At *Church-bank* near *Church-kirk*, Mr. Jonathan Peel has erected very extensive buildings, where he carries on the printing business in great perfection. There are other large printing works at a place called *Oakenshaw*, in which a number of hands are employed. In its neighbourhood is an excellent coal-pit.

## BURNLEY.

BURNLEY has a market on Mondays, chiefly for corn. Its trade was formerly only in woollen or worsted goods, but the cotton ma-

manufactures are now introduced in it. Some fulling mills for woollens are still kept up, and there are many cotton machines and printing works about the town. The church of Burnley is under Whalley, and though only a curacy, is reckoned one of the best livings in these parts. The intended course of the Leeds and Liverpool canal will nearly surround the town. Several good families reside in the country round, and stone and slate are plentiful, and some lead mines have been discovered. Roman coins have been found at this town.

## C O L N E.

COLNE has a church under Whalley, and a baptist and methodist meeting, with a free-school. It is a small market-town, the market on Wednesdays. The trade formerly consisted in woollen and worsted goods, particularly shalloons, calamancoes, and tammies; but the cotton trade is of late introduced, the articles consisting chiefly of calicoes and dimities. There is an elegant cloth-hall, or piece-hall, as it is here called, where goods are sold during the ringing of a bell, fines being levied on sales after the stated time. Much money is turned in this town, in proportion to its size, it being situated on the edge of the district of Craven, where cattle for slaughter are procured for a large surrounding country. Colne stands only a mile from the course of the Leeds canal, at a part where a subterraneous tunnel is to be carried at vast expense through a quicksand. The country about Colne is hilly, and the town is seated upon coal, with stone beneath, and slate for building. Lime is plentiful four miles on the Skipton road. Roman coins

coins have been found at Colne, but there are no other marks of its being a Roman station.

## CLITHEROE.

THIS is a small borough town, seated on an insulated eminence, with a high limestone rock at one end, crowned by its little castle, whose remains are a square tower surrounded at a distance by a strong wall. This castle was possessed by the royalists in the latter end of the civil wars, and was ordered to be dismantled by the Parliament in 1649. The town had been entirely moated round except on the inaccessible parts. The castle is of great antiquity, being mentioned in a grant of William Rufus. The lordship or honour of Clitheroe, anciently belonging to the Lacy family, having been part of the duchy of Lancaster, became the property of the crown, till on the Restoration it was bestowed on Monk, duke of Albemarle, from whom it came to its present possessors, the dukes of Montague. The church is a chapelry belonging to the parish of Whalley.

Clitheroe had an ample charter from the first Henry de Lacy, who granted its townsmen the same privileges with the citizens of Chester. This was confirmed by another of Edward I. The town is governed by two bailiffs, who jointly have the power of one justice of the peace. They are the returning officers of the borough, which sends two members to parliament. It is not incorporated, but the right of voting is in the resident owners of the houses, or, according to the resolution  
of

of the House of Commons in 1661, in such freeholders only who have estates for life or in fee. It did not send members till the first of Elizabeth. The present number of voters is 42. Thomas Lister, Esq. and Lord Curzon, are joint proprietors of the borough, and by compromise now send one member each.

## RIBCHESTER.

THIS is a poor village, containing a parish church ; the living a rectory, in the gift of the bishop of Chester. Ribchester is celebrated as having been a Roman station of considerable note. The place is bounded on its north-east side by a little brook, on its south-east by the river Ribble, both which streams annually make great encroachments on it, especially the latter, which has crossed over from the other side of the vale, and threatens ruin by undermining the banks on which the village stands. A row of houses and some gardens have already been swept away. Except a rampart and fofs near the church, there are no vestiges of the existence of the ancient town. The evidences which remain, are the multitude of coins and other Roman antiquities which, even to the present time, continue to be found there. Most of these are dispersed into different places ; a few remain on the spot. Various inscriptions found here are copied by our antiquarian writers ; one of them proves that a part of the Sarmatian cavalry was quartered here. As to the Roman name of the place, it is a disputed point. Camden supposes it to have been the *Coccium* of Antonine, and the *Rigodunum* of Ptolemy. Horfeley inclines to the first name, and makes Warrington

the ancient Rigodunum. From the discovery of anchors here, and rings of ships, and even a whole vessel, it is evident that it was formerly used as the haven of the upper end of the *Setantiorum portus*, or estuary of the Ribble. The view of the tract evidently shews that the water must formerly have flowed over the whole plain quite up to Ribchester. The flat is bounded on both sides by high banks. The intervening level on examination exhibits a different kind of soil from the surrounding country, being deep and muddy, and evidently of recent formation. The gradual retreat of the tide is supported by very good evidence. Leland was an eye-witness to its flowing more than half way between Preston and Ribchester, at the time he made his survey, which was between the years 1536 and 1542. At present, the tides never reach higher than Bocket-hall, two miles above Preston, and eight from this station; so that from Leland's time they have retreated three miles in this river. Probably no large vessels ever came up hither. The true Portus Setantiorum, or haven of Lancashire, lay within the *Neb of the Nefs*, a point jutting into the estuary of the Ribble ten miles below Preston, on which *neb* a Roman fort is said to have been built, now washed away by the fury of the tides. Vestiges of a Roman road from this place pointing to Ribchester are to be traced. A quarter of a mile from Ribchester is a new and elegant bridge of three arches over the Ribble. Two or three former ones have been swept away by floods. Opposite Ribchester stand several ancient seats, and on each side the river, descending to Preston, are many respectable houses, now deserted, once the habitations of old families in this district. They all stand on the edge of the bank, embosomed once in thick woods of oak, which flourished greatly on the steep slope. Their site is another proof of a former estuary or wash, as they are placed beyond the reach of the tide, but yet near enough to enjoy the benefit of navigation. The  
ride

ride along the meanders of this river, from Ribchester to Cuerdale, and thence to Preston, is extremely pleasing.

### AMOUNDERNESS HUNDRED.

## P R E S T O N.

**A**MONG the Lancashire towns, *Preston* is that which has always taken the lead in point of gentility. Its agreeable and central situation, the number of good families resident in its neighbourhood, the gentlemen of the law belonging to its courts, and its freedom from the bustle of traffic and manufacture, are what have given it this prerogative.

Preston is situated on a rising ground ascending from the river Ribble, over which, at about a mile's distance, is a bridge at the village of Walton. The walks on the edge of this elevation command a beautiful view of tracts of meadow bounded by gentle wooded risings, and the river meandering till it terminates in its broad estuary. The town is of ancient origin, having, according to Camden, risen out of the ruins of Ribchester, and acquiring its name from its religious foundations, *Preston* being derived from *Priest's-town*. Edmund earl of Lancaster, son of Henry III. founded here the Grey Friars; and there was an hospital at a remote period.

Preston is a market town and a borough. The town was first incorporated by Henry II. The corporation consists of a mayor, recorder, eight aldermen, four under-aldermen, seventeen common-councilmen, and a town-clerk. It has the peculiar privilege of holding a guild every twenty years, which is resorted to as a kind of jubilee by the people of fashion and leisure from all the country round. It is held in August, and lasts a month. The corporation walks in solemn procession, followed by the trading companies under their proper banners, and decorated with the insignia of their professions. Plays, concerts, and other public amusements, have made part of the entertainment in modern times.

Preston enjoys the advantage of being the seat of several law courts. The duchy of Lancaster holds a court of chancery here, appointed to hear and determine all causes according to some peculiar customs held among themselves. The chancellor of the duchy is chief judge of this court, and has proper officers under him, viz. a vice-chancellor, an attorney-general, chief clerk, register and examiner, five attorneys and clerks, a prothonotary and his deputy, and clerks of the crown and peace. There is also a county court, which sits every Tuesday in the year, and issues writs which compel appearance without bail for any sum above forty shillings, and on failure of appearance execution follows. Another court is called the county arrest, whence process issues for sums under forty shillings, also without bail. Another is that of the wapentake, in process like the last mentioned, but only for the hundred of Amounderness. Writs holding to bail are issued from the prothonotary's office, upon which the sheriff grants a warrant for apprehension. Other writs are issued from this office, not holding to bail, but on serving a copy a process takes place in the common pleas. The



borough court issues processses for debts up to ten pounds, which compel appearance, or, on failure of it, attach goods in execution to be sold within a limited number of days. This court can likewise send criminals to the new prison, as it takes place of the former house of correction. The quarter sessions are held at Preston by adjournment from Lancaster, on the Thursday in the week after Epiphany.

The new prison, or penitentiary house, as it is called, is situated near the entrance to Preston from Chorley. No criminals are confined in it but those from Lonsdale, Amounderness, Blackburn, and West Derby hundreds. It was erected at the charge of those hundreds upon Mr. Howard's plan, much resembling the New Bayley prison at Manchester. The purpose is only for salutary confinement and reformation. The prisoners have a daily allowance of one pound and half of bread with a lump of butter, and the value of a halfpenny in potatoes. If they cannot consume this allowance, they may exchange it for tea and sugar; but no liquors of any kind are suffered to enter the prison.

Preston is a parliamentary borough, and sends two representatives. Few towns have been the seat of more violent party contests, in some of which it has nearly suffered the fate of a town besieged by an enemy. A question has been at issue for near a century and a half, whether the right of election was in the in-burgessees of the last guild and those admitted since by copy of court-roll, or in the inhabitants at large, or pot-wallers. Two decisions by the House of Commons before the passing of Mr. Grenville's act, and two since, have all agreed in determining the case in favour of the inhabitants at large, whence it will probably be no more contested. The earl of Derby has great influ-

ence

ence in this borough. The mayor and two bailiffs are returning officers.

The weekly markets are held on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, the latter the principal, and are extremely well regulated to prevent forestalling and regrating. None but the town's-people are permitted to buy during the first hour, which is from eight to nine in the morning: at nine others may purchase; but nothing unsold must be withdrawn from the market till one o'clock, fish excepted, which, after the town is served, may be taken off in panniers to other places, lest it should be spoiled, and the supply of this article is most abundant for the town. This market is remarkable for great quantities of meal and shelled groats from the Fylde district, upon which the poorer inhabitants in great measure subsist, making their oaten bread called jannock. The slaughter houses are contiguous to the shambles, which is a nuisance to that quarter; but it contributes to make flesh-meat reasonable. There are three fairs in the year, in March, (which lasts three days) September, and January. Preston is supplied with coals by means of the Douglas navigation, which enters the Ribble somewhat lower than Walton-bridge, and it will have another source of supply from the new Lancaster canal, which is to pass close on the western side of Preston, in its way southwards to the great coal country about Chorley.

Preston is a handsome well-built town, with broad regular streets, and many good houses. The earl of Derby has a large modern mansion in it. The place is rendered gay by assemblies and other places of amusement, suited to the genteel style of the inhabitants. Though it is not characterized by trade, yet it is not destitute of mercantile houses of reputation. Formerly it was a sort of mart for the Lancashire  
linens,

linens, and sheetings are still fold here; but of late the cotton branches have obtained possession, and the house of Watson and Co. manufacture all the articles of dimitics, muffins, and calicoes, from the raw cotton to the printing, and have a warehouse for their sale at Manchester. Preston has a parish church, and a chapel for the establishment, and places of worship for different sects of separatists. It has likewise several alms-houses and charity schools. The parish register has afforded the following extracts :

Year.	Christ.	Burials.	Marr.	Year.	Christ.	Burials.	Marr.
1781	142	184	51	1788	220	189	73
1782	149	250	78	1789	202	209	73.
1783	170	159	80	1790	197	179	72.
1784	139	266	81	1791	209	279	84
1785	168	180	96	1792	224	282	77
1786	206	214	97	1793	243	218	72
1787	204	277	83	1794	223		91

From its situation, Preston has been an important post in the civil commotions of this kingdom, and the scene of various military actions. The most considerable of these was in 1648, when the duke of Hamilton and Sir Marmaduke Langdale with a combined army of English and Scotch of the royal party were defeated with great slaughter by a much inferior number under Cromwell and Lambert. The battle was fought on Ribbleton moor, to the eastward of the town, and also at the pass of the bridge. The Scotch were pursued by Lambert quite to Wigan. In the year 1715, Preston was taken possession of by the rebel general Forster, with a mixed body of Scotch and English, and defended for some time against the king's troops by means of barricades, but he was at length obliged to surrender at discretion.

KIRKHAM.

## K I R K H A M.

THIS is a market town, situated eight miles westward of Preston, in the Filde or Field country. The church is a vicarage, in the gift of Christ Church college, Oxford, and has under it seven chapels. There is a well-endowed free-school, with three masters. The market-day is Tuesday; the annual fairs in June and October. The chief trade of Kirkham is coarse linens, and especially sail cloth, of which it makes a considerable quantity for the use of the navy. Though situated near the mouth of the Ribble it has no river or port; but the Lancaster and Kendal canal will come very near the town.

## LEYLAND HUNDRED.

**A**T *Walton-le-Dale*, a pleasant and populous village on the Ribble, a mile from Preston, is the seat of Sir Henry Hoghton, representative in parliament for that borough. The ancient seat of this family is *Hoghton-tower*, placed upon an eminence about half way between this place and Blackburn, and also in Leyland hundred. This last is a great pile consisting of two courts with three square towers in the front, beneath the middlemost of which is the gateway. The first court contains the offices; the second, the dwelling apartments, numerous, but very ruinous. The draw-well is eighty yards deep. This place was garrisoned during the civil wars, and part of it blown up accidentally, but afterwards repaired. In the reign of Henry II. it was called

called *Hocton*, and gave name to the first of the family mentioned in history, Adam de Hocton.

## C H O R L E Y.

THE road from Preston to Chorley is a good turnpike, made with gravel out of the beds of the Ribble and Douglas. Further southwards the only materials are pebble stones bruised with hammers, with nothing proper to fill up interstices.

Chorley is a small, neat market town, taking its name from a rivulet called the Chor, which issues from several springs to the east of the town, and after flowing through the pleasant valley beneath, joins the Yarrow. In its course it turns several mills, engines, and machines for carding and spinning of cotton. The Yarrow is a larger stream of limpid water, which encircles the extremities of Chorley towards the south. On its banks are many bleaching and printing grounds, with cotton factories intermixed. The situation of Chorley is on the great north road, and nearly central to the main part of the county. Its markets are on Tuesdays and Saturdays; the former plentifully supplied with every necessary. Fish of various kinds are brought from Preston and Lancaster. Its fairs are held in March, May, August, and September; the spring and summer fairs for cattle, the autumn for toys, small wares, and Yorkshire cloth. Chorley has an ancient chapel, lately made parochial; the structure is supposed to be Saxon, dedicated to St. Laurence. The walls are ornamented with ancient coats of arms and Saxon characters, and there are hieroglyphic paintings in the windows. The living is in the gift of the rector of Croston,

which is the mother church to Chorley. In the church-yard is a grammar school, endowed with several legacies, but not free to scholars. A dungeon or prison for the confinement of malefactors has some time since been erected. Plenty of coals and cannel are procured about Chorley, and the country also possesses quarries of ashler, flag, and mill-stone, and mines of lead and alum. These, and other mineral treasures, will obtain a ready conveyance from the intended canals which are to pass through them. The population and trade of this town and neighbourhood have been greatly increased of late years.

Extracted from the church register from 1779 to 1795.

Years.	Christ.	Bur.	Marr.	Years.	Christ.	Bur.	Marr.
1779	101	39	11	1787	99	60	29
1780	96	62	17	1788	139	118	28
1781	108	41	22	1789	122	56	21
1782	103	50	18	1790	148	66	25
1783	90	73	27	1791	143	72	36
1784	118	53	34	1792	156	83	35
1785	120	80	27	1793	163	91	26
1786	104	65	22	1794	168	122	23

## LEYLAND PARISH.

*LEYLAND*, from whence the hundred takes its name, is a pleasant and dry village. The church is a noble room of sixty-five feet by thirty-three, a fine arch without a single pillar. The living is a vicarage: the impropriate rectory belonged to the abbey of Penwortham. In the church are several monuments of the Faringtons. The  
seat

seat of this family is *Shaw-hall*, at a small distance from Leyland. This is a large but irregular house, containing some fine apartments, among which is a museum for natural history. There is a collection of pictures, some of them very valuable; particularly some fresco paintings taken from the walls of Herculaneum. The views from the house are pleasing; the grounds are laid out in a modern style, and there is a very excellent kitchen garden with fruit stores, &c. The late owner, Sir William Farington, spent the greater part of his life at this place, and amused himself with improvements of all kinds. The family are lords of this manor, and also of the fee or honour of Penwortham, and of several other adjoining manors; but the manor of Farington, the ancient seat of the family, was long ago in the possession of the church, and at the dissolution was sold to the Fleetwoods.

## STANDISH PARISH.

THE village of *Standish* has a very handsome church with a spire steeple. The pillars within shew an attempt at the Tuscan order. It was rebuilt in 1584, chiefly by the assistance of Richard Moodie, the rector, who maintained the workmen with provision at his own cost during the time. He was the first protestant pastor, conformed, and procured the living by the cession of the tythes of Standish. He lies in effigy on his tomb in the church dressed in his Franciscan habit, with an inscription declarative of his munificence. There is likewise a handsome tomb of Sir Edward Wrightington, knight, king's council, who died in 1658, and lies recumbent in alabaster, in his gown. The rectory is at present worth £.700 per annum. There is only one chapel of ease in the parish, which is Coppull.

The principal grain produced in the parish is oats ; some barley and a little wheat are sown. The farms are generally small, scarcely any exceeding, and few reaching, £.100 per annum. Land lets from 35s. to 50s. per acre of eight yards to the rood, and a little, particularly rich, at £.3. Manual labour is from 1s. 8d. to 2s. a day. Coals are met with plentifully in the parish, and a tunnel is about to be carried from the mines in the Standish estate to convey them to the Liverpool canal. The cotton manufacture is the staple trade of the parish ; but some coarse linens are also woven. Poor's rates are high.

The gentlemens' seats are,

*Standish-hall* ; an old house of the Standish family. It contains a few relics of the Arundel collection.

*Duxbury* ; Sir Frank Standish.

*Adlington* ; Sir Richard Clayton. This is a new house, with a few good pictures, especially one of a dead head of Charles I. extremely well painted. The Clayton family were originally settled at Clayton near Leyland, which was granted to Robert de Clayton by William the Conqueror. They removed to Adlington about a century ago.

In Coppull is *Chisnal-hall*, formerly the seat of the family of Chisnals, to one of whom, a colonel in the civil wars, there is a memorial in the church. The last representative of this family having built for his residence *Tompson-house* in Langtree near Standish, suffered the old hall to be occupied by tenants. The family estate is now possessed by James Hammerton, Esq. of Hellifield Peel, near Craven, whose  
grand-



grandfather married one of the co-heiresses. Coal abounds in this estate.

*Wrightington-hall*, near Standish, the seat of William Diccoufon, Esq. is said to have been the first sash-window house in Lancashire, and the first to the north of the Trent in the kingdom.

The Kendal and Lancaster canal will pass through this parish.

#### WEST DERBY HUNDRED.

#### W I G A N.

**T**HIS borough is situated near the small river Douglas, on the north road. It is a considerable town, which, as far back as the time of Leland, is called a "paved town as big as Warrington, but better builded, " and inhabited by some merchants, artificers, and farmers." It was first incorporated by Henry I. and possesses a charter from queen Elizabeth, and a later one from Charles II. The corporation consists of a mayor, recorder, twelve aldermen, two bailiffs, and an indefinite number of freemen admitted by a jury in the mayor's court. The rector of the parish, as such, is lord of the manor, and has a rectory-house and glebe land annexed to it. The living is valuable. Wigan sends two members to parliament, the right of election supposed to belong to the free burgesses, in number about 200. The power vested in the corporation of admitting out-standing or honorary burgesses is a powerful engine in elections, and has been greatly abused. Many very expensive contests have happened in this borough. The present  
*patrons*

*patrons* are the duke of Portland and lord Bradford. It has a town hall, erected in 1720 at the joint expence of the then representatives, lord Barrymore and Sir Roger Bradshaigh.

The parish church is antient beyond any traditionary account, and has four chapels under it. One of these is St. George's chapel in the town of Wigan. The church has a ring of bells remarkably deep-toned and tuneable, the tenor weighing 29½ cwt. There is a free-grammar school, and one for blue-coat boys, some alms-houses founded by lady Bradshaigh, and a good workhouse for the poor of the township. The main streets of the town are broad, but irregularly built, with a mixture of old and modern houses.

Wigan has long been noted for the making of checks and brazieri work. The Wigan checks were in much estimation, nor have they yet lost their superiority over those of Manchester; but the cotton manufactory, as in all other places, intrudes upon the old staple of the place. The brazieri is now on the decline. Some sail-cloth is made here in time of war. An ingenious person works cannel coal into vases, snuff boxes, beads, and other toys. The market days of Wigan are Mondays and Fridays; the fairs are in July and October. The state and progress of population will appear in the following extract from the register :

Years.	Marr.	Christs.	Bur.	Years.	Marr.	Christs.	Bur.
1780	92	425	240	1785	115	458	240
1781	86	414	252	1786	129	492	222
1782	101	440	207	1787	104	467	349
1783	95	415	191	1788	110	482	341
1784	91	462	327	1789	122	496	316
				Years:			

Years.	Marr.	Christ.	Bur.	Years.	Marr.	Christ.	Bur.
1790	117	507	200	1793	123	595	330
1791	136	518	411	1794	104	565	373
1792	147	630	338				

We have already mentioned, that the river Douglas many years since was made navigable to the Ribble, by which means a large vent for the coals with which this district abounds was obtained, and the town received other advantages. These have been augmented by a canal cut within a few years to Liverpool, (part of that between Leeds and Liverpool) whereby a direct communication has been opened with that port. There is a mineral water at Wigan, of a similar nature with that of Harrowgate, and used for cutaneous and scorbutic disorders. The town derives a plentiful supply of spring water from reservoirs at Whittle.

Near the north end of the town is a monument erected to the memory of Sir Thomas Tildesley, who was slain on this spot in an action, in which the earl of Derby, having risen in favour of the young king Charles II. in 1651, was defeated by Lilburne.

The parish of Wigan contains twelve townships. One of these is *Haigh*, noted for yielding the finest cannel coal. It is gotten in large blocks, as black as jet, and bearing a fine polish. The beds are about three feet in thickness; the veins dip one yard in twenty, and are found at great depths, with a black bas above and below. On an eminence in this township is situated *Haigh-ball*, the seat of the Bradshaighs; an ancient house, built at different times, the chapel supposed to be of the age of Edward II. In front are the Stanley arms, and be-

neath them those of the Bradshaigh family, which in all civil commotions has united with the former. It possesses many excellent pictures, particularly portraits. A summer-house belonging to the hall is entirely built of cannel coal.

*Ince*, to the east of Wigan, produces cannel equally good with that of Haigh.

*Up-Holland*, a village to the west of Wigan, had formerly a priory of Benedictines, of which nothing now remains but the church and a few walls. The posterity of its founder, Robert de Holland, rose to the highest dignities of the state, with the titles of earls of Surry and Kent, and dukes of Exeter, but underwent many calamities, and at length came to a miserable end.

*Billinge*, near the former, is distinguished by a lofty eminence, crowned by an old beacon, whence is a very extensive prospect over the flat part of Lancashire.

*Winstanley* in its neighbourhood has a valuable species of coal, excellent for the smith's use, which is fetched for that purpose from the country round to a great distance.

## L E I G H.

THIS is a small market town, the market-day Saturday. Its church is ancient; the living a vicarage, which has under it two chapels. The country around is populous and manufacturing. The trade was

Formerly in fustians, such as pillows, barragons, thick sets and velvet-sets; latterly, they have made here fine yard-wide jeans, in imitation of India, with figured and flowered draw-boys. Their spun cotton for warp and weft is mostly got from Manchester. At a mile's distance are good coal pits, which supply the town at a cheap rate. Lime is got at Bedford near Leigh, of a kind like that of Sutton, hardening speedily under water, and therefore fit for lining reservoirs, and the like purposes. It is much used in the duke of Bridgewater's canal. The rapid increase of population, or the improvement in the mode of living (probably both) in this town and neighbourhood, may be judged of from the following fact—in 1758 one beast was slaughtered at Christmas, and proved too much for the market; in 1792, thirty-five beasts (cows) were slaughtered at Christmas, and proved too little. The parish register for the last twenty years affords the following results:

Year.	Christ.	Bur.	Marr.	Year.	Christ.	Bur.	Marr.
1774	240	173	96	1785	371	159	104
1775	280	126	82	1786	373	230	90
1776	276	130	98	1787	399	164	92
1777	248	176	77	1788	361	211	106
1778	280	107	82	1789	417	215	75
1779	279	160	75	1790	371	153	96
1780	332	174	79	1791	382	194	91
1781	310	143	104	1792	412	165	96
1782	314	262	69	1793	392	177	80
1783	372	113	90	1794	341	170	56
1784	300	140	131				

Leigh parish is famous for its cheese, of a mild and rich kind, and peculiarly excellent for toasting. It is produced from the pasture and meadow land on the banks of several little streams which flow through the parish, and unite to form the brook which enters the Mersey at Glaze-brook. Leigh, it is hoped, will shortly have the advantage of a navigation by means of a branch extended from the duke of Bridgewater's canal at Worsley to Pennington.

From Leigh an avenue and pleasure grounds near a mile in length lead to *Atherton-hall*, formerly the seat of the Atherton family, from which it passed by marriage to the Gwillyms. This is a noble mansion, erected at great expence, and which took a long time in finishing. Its plan is in the *Vitruvius Britannicus*; the architect was Gibbs. A vast cubical hall at the entrance gives it an air of magnificence, but at the expence of utility.

The very populous village of *Chowbent* is contiguous to Atherton. In it are made a great quantity of cotton goods, chiefly of the coarser kinds, and several branches of iron work, particularly nails; but these last have been in great measure driven out by the cotton trade, and have migrated towards Ashton in the willows. Five and twenty years ago, Chowbent was reckoned to contain 2400 inhabitants, and it is supposed to have doubled its inhabitants within that period. A dissenting congregation here was returned to Dr. Percival, in 1773, as containing by exact enumeration 1160 persons. The chapel of the establishment at Atherton or Chowbent formerly belonged to the dissenters, but was taken from them in consequence of an election dispute, and consecrated by the celebrated Dr. Wilson, bishop of Sodor and Man, and to this day it remains out of the jurisdiction of the diocese of Chester, and in

the gift of the Atherton family. In the rebellion in 1717, Mr. Wood, the then dissenting minister of Chowbent, led a considerable body of his flock to join the royal army, and to them was committed the custody of the pass over the Ribble at Walton. From this exertion of loyalty Mr. Wood obtained the popular title of General, by which he was ever after known ; and many stories are still current of his cheerful singularities.

We have been favoured with the following particular account of the new village of *Tildsley* in this parish :

The *Banks of Tildsley*, in the parish of Leigh, are about one mile and a half in length, and command a most beautiful prospect into seven counties. The air is pure and healthy ; the springs remarkably soft and clear, and most excellently adapted to the purposes of bleaching. The land is rich, but mostly in meadow and pastures, for milk, butter, and the noted Leigh cheese. This estate had, in the year 1780, only two farm houses and eight or nine cottages, but now contains 162 houses, a neat chapel, and 976 inhabitants, who employ 325 looms in the cotton manufactories of Marseilles quiltings, dimities, corduroys, velvets, velveteens, thicksets, muslins, muslinets, and new stripes for furniture. Lately Mr. Johnson has erected a large factory six stories high, and a steam engine, with dye-houses and other extensive buildings for the woollen business, which consists of kerseymeers and various fancy goods in all woollen, and silk and woollen. There are two other factories upon the estate, intended to be let for the woollen business, and one very large building newly erected, intended for the spinning of woollen and worsted. It is Mr. Johnson's intention to introduce the woollen branches into this part of the country, and it certainly appears

a very eligible situation, having great plenty of coal, fine water, being in the centre of some thousand weavers, and only distant four miles from the duke of Bridgewater's canals at Worsley; and the Lancaster canal will run near the estate. Mr. Johnson has been at a considerable expence in setting up the newest and most approved machinery for wil-  
lowing, scribbling, carding, roving, and spinning of fine woollen yarn, which he means to employ, not only for himself, but for the accommodation of all others who may be induced to settle upon the estate in the woollen business. There are a number of boys from twelve to sixteen years of age at the factory, who are with great care progressively instructed in the manufacture of various fancy woollen articles, with a view of establishing the fine woollen business in the neighbourhood; and Manchester being the first repository of manufactures, is daily frequented by foreigners, and town and country buyers, which has already induced several capital woollen houses to settle there. Every sort of new machinery seems to be encouraged by the work people in Tildsley, and the great advantages of scribbling and shearing by steam or water, with the use of the fly shuttle, will most probably be a means of establishing manufactories there.

## WARRINGTON.

THIS town, situated on the Mersey, nearly central to the limit between the two counties of Lancaster and Chester, is of considerable antiquity. From the site of the church it would appear that the whole town was originally confined to its present eastern extremity, which lies opposite to that old ford of the river which gave name to the village of Latchford. But on the building of the present bridge, (which was  
erected



erected by the first earl of Derby, for the purpose, it is said, of accommodating Henry VII. on a visit to him) the buildings collected in its neighbourhood, and the vicinity of the church, was deserted. This was already the case in the time of Leland, who describes Warrington as "a paved town of pretty bigness, with an Augustine friary at the town's end; and the parish church at the tail of all the town." He says it has a better market than Manchester. The friary, which existed before 1379, stood near the bridge, its site being still indicated by the name of an adjacent street, though not a vestige of the building remains. The charter for markets and fairs was obtained in the reign of Edward I. by Sir Thomas Boteler, head of an ancient family near this place, of whom, with his lady, there is a magnificent alabaster tomb, ornamented with variety of sculpture, in a chapel of the parish church. He resided at the house of Bewsey near this town, and tradition reports that he and his lady were murdered by assassins who crossed the moat in leathern boats. An ancient moated mansion is still in being at Bewsey.

The principal part of the town consists of four streets crossing at the centre, one of which runs directly from the bridge, and from its narrowness and mean building, gives but an unfavourable idea of the place to a stranger. But some of the other streets are much opener, and contain many good houses interspersed, the usual effect of commercial opulence rising in a place of antiquity. It has the common fault of being most straightened at the centre; a great inconvenience to a town which is one of the principal thoroughfares of the north, being the only entrance from the south to all the north-western part of England, and the busy port of Liverpool. There is no bridge over the Mersey between Warrington and the sea, and none for many miles upwards between it and Manchester. From this circumstance Warrington has

always been a post of consequence in the civil commotions of this kingdom, and various actions have taken place on this spot, of which one of the most considerable was the slaughter and capture of a large body of the fugitive Scotch army under the duke of Hamilton in 1648, after the defeat of the combined royal forces near Preston. Lambert was the parliamentary general on this occasion, who likewise made a stand here against the Scotch army which advanced under the young king in 1651, but was obliged to retreat. In the rebellion of 1745 the bridge at Warrington was broken down, whereby the Pretender's army was induced to vary from their intended route southwards, and take the road through Manchester.

Warrington has long been of some note as a trading town. In the first part of this century a great quantity of coarse linens and checks was made in the town and neighbourhood, and sold at its markets; but in later years, the manufacture of sail-cloth or poldavy, was introduced, and rose to such a height, that half of the heavy sail-cloth used in the navy has been computed to be manufactured here. Sail-cloth is for the most part made of hemp and flax mixed, but some is made of flax alone. The raw materials are chiefly brought from Russia to the port of Liverpool, whence they come to Warrington by water-carriage. This manufacture has brought wealth and population to the place; but a branch of trade subject to such variation in the demand, according to the prevalence of peace or war, has had its inconveniences; and, in fact, Warrington has partaken less of the increased prosperity of the county than many other towns. During the interval between the last and the present war, several of the manufacturers exerted themselves to introduce the cotton branches here, and succeeded to a considerable degree. As the coarser cotton goods were those chiefly attempted, many  
of

of the sail-cloth weavers, for the sake of more employment and better wages, turned their hands to the new manufacture, which caused a considerable decline of the old ; but since the commencement of the war the case has been reversed. Various other trades have added to the business of the town. The making of pins has been, and still is, carried on to a pretty large extent ; and locks, hinges, and other articles of hardware are fabricated here. Large works for the smelting of copper were established near the town, and used for several years, but have for some time been discontinued. The refinery of sugar, and the making of glass, have employed many hands ; and the latter, particularly, is a flourishing branch of manufacture. An iron foundry has likewise been set up, which makes a variety of common articles. Warrington has been long noted for its malt and ale, and deals pretty largely in the corn and flour trade. Besides these sources of gain and employment, the great resort of travellers to the town promotes a considerable circulation of money. Its markets (the principal of which is on Wednesday, the other on Saturday) are frequented by an extensive and populous circumjacent country ; though the Bridgewater canal, which passes a mile and a half to the south of Warrington in its course to Manchester, has drawn off a good deal of the Cheshire business from this neighbourhood to the latter town. At the latter of the two annual fairs, in November, business to a considerable amount is transacted, particularly in Irish linen and Welch flannel from Chester fair, and in Yorkshire cloths. Much butcher's meat of an inferior kind killed here is carried to the Liverpool and other markets ; and quantities of fruit and vegetables grown round the town are sent away for the supply of Manchester, Bolton, and other parts in the manufacturing districts.

The population of Warrington has received a large increase within the latter half of this century. The parish register affords the following annual averages :

		Marr.	Christ.	Bur.
From 1750 to 1769 inclusive,	- -	73	237	199
From 1770 to 1772 inclusive,	- -	95	331	258

In 1773 exact bills of mortality were begun to be kept, which comprehended the dissenters of all kinds, as well as the establishment. The following annual results are taken from them.

Year.	Marr.	Births.	Deaths.	Year.	Marr.	Births.	Deaths.
1773	93	356	473	1779	105	392	295
1774	69	398	208	1780	93	413	362
1775	50	370	199	1781	93	435	270
1776	101	378	234	1782	84	387	267
1777	78	415	364	1783	87	325	265
1778	96	400	214				

In the year 1781 an enumeration of the houses and inhabitants of Warrington and its vicinity was made, of which the particulars were as follows:

		Houses.	Inhab.
Town and township of Warrington,	- -	1941	8791
Poulton and Fearnhead,	- -	73	343
Woolston,	- -	76	367
Suburb in Cheshire,	- -	55	269

In that year, the births, as stated in the preceding bills, ran highest, and after it population seems to have been upon the decline. But the introduction of the cotton trade gave it fresh vigour, and many new houses for the accommodation of working people were built. The result is shewn in the following extracts from the bills :

Year.	Marr.	Births.	Deaths.	Year.	Marr.	Births.	Deaths.
1785 to 1789	Aver.	430	315	1792	127	478	314
1790	102	418	407	1793	103	514	361
1791	127	444	286	1794	81	423	319

In the last yearly bill are subjoined the births and burials for two country chapelries in the parish, viz.

Hollingfare,	- - -	47 births,	22 burials,
Burtonwood,	- - -	38 ditto,	11 ditto.

Warrington may, in some measure, be considered as a port town, the Mersey admitting, by the help of the tide, vessels of seventy or eighty tons burthen, to Bank-quay, a little below the town, where warehouses, cranes, and other conveniences for landing goods are erected. The spring-tides rise at the bridge to the height of nine feet. Upwards, the river communication extends to Manchester. The Mersey naturally is well stored with fish. In the proper seasons large quantities of salmon have been caught in the vicinity of the town, so as formerly to afford a cheap article of food to the inhabitants ; but the demands for the luxury of the great towns in its neighbourhood, and of the distant metropolis itself, together with the diminution of the number of fish, owing to too frequent molestation and want of proper

attention, have latterly made a rarity what was once a plentiful variety. The same may be said of the smelts or sparlings, which annually in spring come up the river in shoals, formerly consisting of vast numbers, and of a size superior to those of other parts. But both the size and numbers have been much diminished, as is supposed, by the constant fishing in the lower parts of the river, whereby the spawn and young fry are destroyed.

Warrington is well supplied with coals, partly by land carriage from the pits of Haydock and its neighbourhood, partly by the Sankey canal, which comes within a mile and a half of the town.

The land around Warrington consists of rich meadows bordering on the river, and occasionally flooded, and of pasture and garden ground. It is noted for its gooseberries, which are superior in size, and of greater variety of kinds, than in most parts of the kingdom. A very fine kind of damson is also common here. Potatoes are raised in large quantities, and thirty or forty thousand bushels have been shipped at Bank-quay in a year.

Besides the parish church, Warrington contains a chapel of ease, and there is another chapel of the establishment in the suburb over the bridge, belonging to the parish of Groppenhall. There are also places of worship for the Roman catholics, presbyterians, anabaptists, methodists, and quakers. There is a very well endowed free school in the town; and a charity for educating and maintaining poor children of both sexes.

About thirty-seven years since, a feminary for educating youth upon a liberal academical plan was instituted in this town, and supported by

subscriptions, chiefly among the dissenters. It flourished during a considerable period under the care of tutors of eminence, several of them well known in the republic of letters, but at length sunk, through want of adequate support, and the difficulties in maintaining proper discipline.

Near to Warrington is *Orford*, the seat of the Blackburne family, rendered celebrated by its late venerable possessor, for its botanical treasures. A tribute to his memory was inserted in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for March 1787, which we shall transcribe.

“ JOHN BLACKBURNE, Esq. of Orford, near Warrington, Lancashire, was one of the venerable relics of the last century ; for at his death he had attained to, I think, his 96th year. This uncommon age was the reward of a very regular and temperate life, and a mind undisturbed by any violent emotions. His health and tranquillity were also not a little promoted by the turn he took early in life to the cultivation of plants. He was, as I have been well informed, the second gentleman in England who cultivated that delicious fruit, now so common, the Pine-Apple ; and his garden always continued one of the chief objects of botanical curiosity for its products, both foreign and domestic, in the north of England. Of this a catalogue was printed by his gardener, Mr. Neal, in the year 1779, which was well received by the lovers of that delightful science. Here, as Mr. Pennant, in one of his tours, observes, the venerable owner, like another Evelyn, spent the calm evening of his life, under the flourishing shades of his own planting. He retained his faculties in very considerable perfection, till within two or three years before his death ; and the writer of this account has frequently enjoyed the pleasure of hearing him converse

with cheerfulness, and ready recollection, on the events of former years, and on topics of horticulture and natural history. He was exemplary in the discharge of religious duties, and in charity to the poor; and his numerous household was governed with that order, decorum, and regular economy, which so well suited his station and character.

“ By his lady, of the family of Ashton, in Lancashire, he had a numerous progeny, several of whom are now living in very respectable situations. Mrs. Anna Blackburne, his surviving daughter, who imbibed his taste for botany, and added to it the other branches of natural history, is well known as the possessor of an elegant and valuable museum, little inferior to that of her relation, Sir Ashton Lever. This was enriched with many curious specimens from North America, by a brother who died in that country several years ago. Mr. Blackburne's eldest son settled at Hale, in Lancashire. The present John Blackburne, Esq. knight of the shire for Lancashire, is *his* son and successor.”

To this we shall add, that the last-mentioned gentleman now inhabits the seat of his grandfather, which he has greatly improved by alterations in the modern taste, but without infringing upon its *botanical* establishment. Mrs. A. Blackburne is since dead, but her museum is preserved at her late house near Warrington.

The Liverpool and Manchester road on each side of Warrington is now made with slag or dross from the copper works, broken with hammers into small pieces, and raised in the middle. This makes an excellent and durable road. That part between Warrington and Prescott is equal to any in the kingdom.



## WINWICK PARISH.

THE village of Winwick, three miles north of Warrington, is remarkable for being the seat of the richest rectory in England. The parish is large and fertile, and the whole township of Winwick, one estate excepted, is glebe land to the church, the rector being lord of the manor. The whole value of the living is supposed at present to be little short of £.3000 per annum. It is in the gift of the earl of Derby. The present very respectable incumbent, the Rev. Geoffry Hornby, has made great additions to the parsonage house, and improvements of the grounds about it, so as to render it an adequate residence for such a benefice. There is also a good free-school in the village. The church is an ancient edifice with a spire steeple, a conspicuous object from a great distance. A Latin inscription in monkish rhyme, written in old characters, runs round the south side of the church, intimating that the place was once a favourite seat of Oswald, king of Northumberland, in the time of the heptarchy. Dr. Sherlock, grandfather of the bishop of London of that name, died rector of this place in 1689.

*Newton*, in Winwick parish, once a small market town, and though now but a village, still retaining the more important privilege of sending two members to parliament, lies on the north road between Warrington and Wigan, forming a broad street distinguished by its numerous public houses—the true borough badge. The right of election is in the free burghesses, who are occupiers of certain houses; their number is about thirty-six. The steward of the lord of the manor, and the bailiff, are returning officers. The property of the borough is in the family of Legh of Haydock in this parish, and Lyme in Cheshire.

Newton

Newton has a chapel of the establishment.

*Ashton in Makerfield, or in the Willows*, a village in the same parish, agreeably situated on the north road, is become a thriving place of traffic, having employment both in the cotton trade, and in some branches of the hardware manufactory. This last is managed by workmen, who perform their work at home, and take it to their employers, as the weaver does his piece. Ashton has likewise a chapel.

Throughout the whole of Winwick parish there is much spinning of cotton and flax.

## P R E S C O T T.

THIS is a moderate-sized market town, situated about eight miles to the eastward of Liverpool, and on the turnpike road between that port and Warrington. Its situation is dry and elevated, so that the spire steeple of its church is an object from all the low part of this county and Cheshire to the distance of a great many miles. The town may be said almost to be built over coal-pits, several being worked close to its extremities, and its neighbourhood supplying large quantities of this article to Liverpool and the circumjacent parts. The town is straggling and of considerable length. Its market-day is Tuesday; it has two yearly fairs, in June and November. The church is a vicarage, and of considerable value. There is likewise a dissenting meeting, and a free-school, and a number of alms-houses.

Prescott has several manufactories of coarse earthen ware ; but it is particularly distinguished as the centre of the manufacture of watch tools and movements, of which we shall proceed to give an account.

The watch-tools made here have been excellent beyond the memory of the oldest watch-makers ; and the manufacture has been much extended by improvements in making new tools of all sorts, and the inventions for first cutting teeth in wheels, and afterwards for finishing them with exactness and expedition. The drawing of pinion wire originated here, which is carried as far as to fifty drawings, and the wire is completely adapted for every size of pinions to drive the wheels of watches, admirable for truth and fitness for the purpose, but left for the workmen to harden. This pinion wire is now very cheap, the price having been lowered by a single workman in that branch, who left the country forty years since and settled at Ilfrington, where he offered it at half price to the tool shops in London.

They make here small files, the best in the world, at a superior price, indeed, but well worth the money, from the goodness of the steel, and exactness of cutting. They do not attempt making the larger files.

They make watch-movements most excellent in kind, which is greatly owing to the superior quality of their files and tools. They likewise excel in what is called motion-work, such as dial wheels, locking springs, hour, minute, and second hands, &c. Main springs, chains for movements, and watch-cases, were not part of the original manufacture, but are now made here.

All these branches extend from Prescott to the surrounding villages, and all along the road to Liverpool, in which town the business seems finally to have centered: the drawing of pinion wire particularly, is now principally carried on at a place called the Park, near Liverpool. Upon the whole, this tool-making business keeps removing to Liverpool, in the same manner as the fustian making, which originated at Bolton, has removed to Manchester. The tool and watch-movement makers are numerously scattered over the country from Prescott to Liverpool, occupying small farms in conjunction with their manufacturing business, in which circumstance they resemble the weavers about Manchester. All Europe is more or less supplied with the articles above-mentioned made in this neighbourhood.

The parish of Prescott is extensive, and contains various objects deserving of notice.

*St. Helens* has of late years risen from a small village to be a well-built and populous market town. Its increase has been owing to the various works established in its neighbourhood. In the year 1773, was erected at Ravenhead, near St. Helens, the *British Plate-Glass Manufactory*, incorporated by act of parliament, occupying near thirty acres of land enclosed by a wall. The buildings have cost near £.40,000. Between 300 and 400 men are constantly employed in the works. The metal table upon which the glasses are cast and rolled is fifteen feet long, nine feet wide, and six inches thick. The manufacture was introduced by workmen from France, and is brought to great perfection. Glasses have been cast here of the following sizes:

133 inches by 72

135 inches by 62

139 ditto by 69

144 ditto by 54

The glass is chiefly sent to London, and lodged for sale in the Company's warehouse near Blackfriars bridge. It is as brilliant in colour and perfect in every respect as the French, though the want of wood fuel was for some time a disadvantage, which has been overcome by great industry and care in the choice and use of the coals employed. In 1789 a steam engine was erected to grind and polish the plates of glass, which is a very curious piece of mechanism, and not only saves a great deal of labour, but does the work with more exactness and expedition. This invention is said to perform as much work as would employ 160 men.

Near St. Helen's a few years ago was also established a manufactory for window glass, and for blowing small plates.

At St. Helen's, about the year 1780, a most extensive copper-work was erected by Messrs. Hughes, Williams, and Co. for the purpose of smelting and refining copper-ore from Paris mountain in Anglesey. Of this ore, 20,000 tons per annum are smelted here and at another work upon the same navigation, which is the Sankey canal. The Raven-head works manufacture thirty tons weekly of small copper bars, not seven ounces troy weight, for the East India Company, which are exported to China, and are supposed to pass for coin. These bars are dropped from the mould into water, when an effervescence begins in a few minutes to take place at one end, and proceeds quickly to the other, by which the bar is changed from a leaden hue to the colour of red sealing wax. The bar resembles in shape a stick of wax.

In the adjoining township of *Sutton*, an excellent clay is found, and made use of for making sugar moulds and coarse earthen-ware; and in the township of *Rainford*, about five miles from St. Helen's, there is

good clay for making crucibles and fire bricks. In *Sutton* township and *Parr* iron stone has been found in large quantities above the coals, and in some places beds of cokes or cinders have been discovered, three feet thick, said to have been made from the iron works of the Danes, when in possession of this part of the country—and this seems probable, from the manner of their getting the ore, which is proved to have been by sinking a shaft to the iron stone, and excavating the same by enlarging the aperture, in the form of a cone, so long as they durst venture to trust the roof, and then sinking a new shaft near, and filling up the old one with the soil, &c. so produced. The cinders appear to have resisted the efforts of time, and to remain in the same state they were in when buried; and as discovered, they have been made use of for the repair of roads.

## KNOWSLEY.

ABOUT a mile and a half from Prescott lies Knowsley, in Huyton parish, the residence of the earls of Derby, seated in a park, high, and much exposed to the west winds, the effects of which are visible in the shorn form of the trees towards that quarter. This was a manor appertaining to Lathom. The house consists of two parts joining to each other at right angles. The more ancient is of stone, and has two round towers. This was built by Thomas, first earl of Derby, for the reception of his son-in-law king Henry VII. The other part, which is of brick, was built by the two last earls. The noble family of Stanley, the title of which is derived from West Derby in Lancashire, not from the county of that name, has for many generations been settled in Lancashire, in which it holds large possessions and the first

first interest. In this house is a long series of portraits of the family, many of whom have been highly distinguished by the virtues which should adorn an English nobleman. It contains likewise a capital collection of pictures by some of the first Italian and Flemish masters, which was purchased by James earl of Derby, who sent abroad for that purpose Hamlet Winstanley, a painter, a native of Warrington. Winstanley etched twenty plates of the finest of these paintings in the years 1728 and 1729.

## ORMSKIRK PARISH.

ORMSKIRK is a neat market town, with four well-built streets crossing each other at right angles, leaving a handsome opening at the centre. Its only trade is the spinning of cotton for the Manchester manufactures, and thread for sail-cloth. It has long been in possession of a fair and market by virtue of a grant from king Edward I. (confirmed by Edward II.) to the canons of Burfough, to whom the church and manor belonged. The manor and patronage of the church now belong to the earl of Derby. The living is a vicarage. The church is remarkable for its two steeples placed contiguous, one, a tower, the other, a short spire, concerning the erection of which various stories are told. In a chapel within the church is the cemetery of the Derby family, being a vault, the descent to which is closed by folding doors. The monuments of this family were removed hither from Burfough priory, at the dissolution.

From the top of the steeple is a fine prospect of the adjacent country, the Irish sea, the mouth of the Ribble, and the towns of Liverpool

and Preston at indistinct distances, with moors and washes interspersed.

The parish of Ormskirk contains the townships of *Ormskirk*, *Burfcough*, *Lathom*, *Scarifbrick*, and *Bickerstaff* with *Skelmersdale*. In the sandy loams of these districts carrots are successfully cultivated for the supply of the Liverpool market. The gardeners about Ormskirk are likewise famous for their culture of early potatoes.

*Burfcough Priory* was founded in the reign of Richard I. by Robert Fitzhenry, lord of Lathom. At the time of the dissolution it maintained a prior and five canons of the Augustine order, and forty servants. Nothing is left of the pile but part of the centre arch of the church. Instead of its magnificent tombs of the Stanleys before the reformation, a few modern grave-stones peep through the grass, the memorials of poor catholics, who still prefer this burial place.

*Lathom-house*, a magnificent edifice built by Sir Thomas Bootle, knight, chancellor to Frederick, late Prince of Wales, is the present seat of Richard Wilbraham Bootle, Esq. The house consists of a ground-floor, principal and attic, and has a rustic basement, with a double flight of steps to the first story. It is built of stone, after a plan of Leoni's. The front extends 156 feet by 75, and has nine windows on each floor. The offices are joined to it by two corridors supported by Ionic pillars. It contains, among other good apartments, a hall of forty feet by forty, and thirty-eight high. The back front was begun by William earl of Derby. The house is situated in the centre of a park five miles round, commanding an extensive but uninteresting view towards the north.



The ancient celebrated house of Lathom stood between the north-east offices of the present edifice, and the kitchen-garden. It originally belonged, with great surrounding property, to the family of Lathoms, from whom it came in 1369 to the Stanleys. The siege which it underwent from the Parliament forces in 1644 and 1645, and its gallant defence by the famous countess of Derby, Charlotte de la Tremouille, are events well known in the history of our unfortunate civil wars. It returned into the possession of the Stanley family after the Restoration; and was inhabited within the present century. The house and this part of the estate were transferred in 1714, by marriage, to lord Ashburnham. He sold it to a Mr. Furness, who parted with it to Sir Thomas Bootle. His niece and heiress married the present owner, then Richard Wilbraham, Esq. of Rode-hall, Cheshire. Near the house is a small chapel and some alms-houses, founded by one of the Stanleys. A chaplain belongs to them, who bears the name of Almoner of Latham.

*Scarifbrick-hall* is at present occupied by Thomas Eccleston, Esq. a gentleman to whose spirited improvements in agriculture and the breeding of stock, the neighbourhood is greatly indebted. For his exertions in the draining and improvement of *Martin-Meer*, he obtained the gold medal of the *Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce*. His account of that great work, communicated to the same society in 1786, and published in the seventh volume of their *Transactions*, is so instructive, that we cannot more usefully employ a few pages than in reprinting it.

“*MARTIN-MEER* was formerly a large pool, or lake of fresh water, of an irregular form, surrounded chiefly by mosses or boggy land, containing near one thousand seven hundred and seventeen acres,  
of:

of eight yards to the pole, which is the customary measure of the neighbourhood, (about three thousand six hundred and thirty-two statute acres.) It lies in the different manors of Scarisbrick, Burscough, North-Meols, Tarleton, and Rufford.

“ About the year 1692, Mr. Fleetwood, of Bank Hall, proposed to the several other proprietors to drain Martin-Meer, on condition that a lease (for the whole) of three lives and thirty-one years should be granted him, which they agreed to; and Mr. Fleetwood obtained an act of parliament the same year to empower him to effect it. The following year he began the work: his plan was, to discharge the waters immediately into the sea, at the mouth of the river Ribble, which before had forced themselves a passage into the river Douglas, when the Meer waters were raised above their usual height by the land floods, as is noted by Camden in his *Britannia*.

“ The intermediate ground between Martin-Meer and the Douglas, lying considerably higher than the Meer, occasioned the stagnation, and kept it continually full.

“ Mr. Fleetwood began the undertaking by making a canal, or sluice, twenty-four feet wide, of a depth sufficiently lower than the Meer, which he cut from the Ribble mouth through an embanked salt marsh, and then through a moss or bog in North Meols, about a mile and a half in length; and he continued it through the lowest parts of the Meer. To prevent the sea from rushing up the canal, and overflowing the Meer, which lies ten feet lower than high-water mark at the spring tides, he erected in his canal, near the sea, a pair of flood-gates, which shut when the sea waters rose higher than those in the canal, and opened again

again by the sluice stream when the sea retired. In this place, the mouth of the Ribble is nearly five miles over at the spring tides ; but the bed of the river at low water is no more than a furlong in breadth, and it lies under the Lytham, or opposite shore to the flood-gates, about the distance of four miles from them. This is a very unfavourable circumstance to the draining of the Meer, as it greatly diminishes the effect of the out-fall by the length of the way the waters have to run over a very flat, loose, flying, sandy coast, before they can disembogue into the river. These sands in a few years after the drainage was finished, drifting by the winds into the out-fall sluice, soon obstructed the flow of the waters, and in a short time choked up the passage, which had been made sufficiently deep to carry them off.

“ The spring tides in boisterous weather brought up great quantities of mud to the flood-gates ; here it lodged in sediment for want of a powerful current in dry seasons to wash it away : thus the wished-for effect of so much labour was frustrated, for the Meer was once more nearly reduced into its primitive state. In order to remove this destructive obstacle of mud and sand, the managers for Mr. Fleetwood, in the year 1714, thought it most adviseable to raise the sill or threshold of the flood-gates, which they elevated twenty inches : this, with some other measures then adopted, did, for some time, enable them to keep the flood-gates free from the above-mentioned obstructions.

“ But it proved very detrimental ; for so much fall was lost, that the arable and meadow grounds upon the Meer diminished greatly in value, by the water remaining upon them all the winter, and very late oftentimes in the spring season.

“ By a gradual, continual loss of out-fall amongst the sands, and by the sluice on the marsh and other parts wrecking up, the Meer lands for many years were only made use of as a poor, fenny, watery pasture for the cattle of the neighbourhood, and that for a part of the summer months only.

“ Some time after, Mr. Fleetwood’s executors continued their sluice farther upon the shore, and erected a new pair of flood-gates, winged with stone walls, considerably nearer to the out-fall, and they found great benefit from it, as the gates were much less liable to be obstructed by the sand and mud brought up with the tide.

“ About the year 1750 Mr. Fleetwood’s lease expired; and in 1755 the flood-gates and walls were washed down by a very uncommon high tide, but were rebuilt (fourteen feet wide) at the joint expence of the proprietors, in whose hands it remained in a neglected state for many years; for, as before, from inattention to the cleansing of the sluice, and from the narrow passage at the flood-gates, which were still liable to be choaked with mud, &c. and much of the out-fall being lost, the lands upon the Meer became again of little value, being covered with water all the winter, and liable to be flooded by very trivial summer rains. In this condition the best Meer lands let for a few shillings the large acre only.

“ In the year 1778 I settled here; and as the most extensive and valuable wear of the Meer belonged to this estate, I had the levels taken from low-water mark; and finding a considerable fall, I had recourse to Mr. Gilbert, of Worfeley (who had judiciously planned, and happily executed the astonishing works of his grace the duke of Bridgewater.)

To

To his friendship and abilities I am indebted for the success of the drainage; for, after the most minute inspection, he gave me every encouragement, and kindly assisted me in directing the undertaking. By his advice I applied to the other four proprietors of Martin-Meer for a lease for the term of three lives for their several shares, and opened to them my intention of effectually draining the whole at my own expence. In 1781 I obtained the leases from all the proprietors (one only excepted,) and immediately began the work.

“ The plan Mr. Gilbert struck out, which I have executed, was to have in the main sluice three different pair of flood-gates. The first are to keep the sea out, which are called the Sea-gates. The second pair are erected at about half a mile distance nearer to the Meer, to stop the sea there, in case any accident should happen to the first: these are termed the Stop-gates. The third pair are built close to, and in the same walls with the Sea-gates, but open and shut in a contrary direction to them: these are named the Flushing-gates. All these three flood-gates are kept open, to give a free passage to the waters from the Meer, when the tide has sufficiently retired; and when the tide rises again above the level of the waters on the Meer, the sea-gates are shut. In dry seasons, when a sufficient quantity of water does not come down from the Meer, to keep the out-fall sluice open across the loose flying sands on the shore, the tide itself is permitted to flow up the sluice to the stop-gates, which are then shut; and at high water the flushing-gates are closed to keep the sea water in.

“ N. B. All these three several gates have four paddles at the bottom, three feet in length, and two feet in depth, which are drawn up

by screws, to flush away any obstacle that may chance to impede their working.

“ At low water the paddles of the flushing-gates are drawn up, and the retained sea-water rushes out with so much violence, that the sluice to low water is in a very short time cleansed from every obstruction, sand, mud, &c. that may have been brought up by the tide.

“ Thus, by the great skill and superior ingenuity of one man (Mr. Gilbert,) the great obstacle to the perfect drainage of Martin-Meer is done away, which had baffled the many vain efforts of the proprietors for almost a century.

“ By an accurate examination of the out-fall, Mr. Gilbert found it would admit of the sill or threshold of the new gates being laid five inches lower than it formerly had been; and he recommended the sea-gates to be advanced about two hundred yards nearer to the out-fall upon the open marsh. To prevent the sea flowing into the sluice behind these gates, large and strong banks are thrown up on each side, which are continued to the stop-gates; and at the same time they answer another essential purpose, viz. by containing a larger quantity of sea-water to flush with.

“ The new sea-gates are eighteen feet wide, and nineteen feet and a half high, and the sill five feet lower than the former: this makes the passage in rainy seasons, when the water would have run four feet upon the old sill, to bear the proportion of one hundred and sixty-two feet in the present gates, to fifty-six in the old ones.

“ When

“ When we had sunk to the proper depth of the foundations of the new gates, we found a quicksand, and built upon it. The walls are twelve bricks in thickness at the bottom, and there is no settlement, nor have they sunk in the least.—N. B. Large flat stones were laid under the brick and stone work, and were the only precaution used.

“ Whilst the gates were building, I employed all the hands I could procure in deepening and widening the sluice upon a dead level with the fill up to the Meer, six yards wide at the bottom, allowing a foot and a half slope to every foot in elevation. In some places the cutting was near twenty feet deep ; and at the depth of sixteen feet in sand, I found an entire trunk of a tree, which squared a foot.

“ In April 1783 the level was carried up completely to the Meer, which then (owing to the waters having been dammed up,) was flooded higher than it had been for several years. As soon as the dam-head was cut, the superior efficacy of the new works appeared, and this uncommon flood ran off in five days, which would have required as many weeks to have been discharged through the old flood-gates.

“ After the waters had run off, the sluice was deepened nearly to the same level through the lowest parts of the Meer. The sluice is nearly five miles in length from the sea-gates.

“ The ditches were next attended to ; and since the drainage, above a hundred miles in length have been perfected ; but as small open drains were necessary to carry off the rain-water into the ditches, I procured a draining or guttering plough, on Mr. Cuthbert Clark’s construction, which

was drawn by eight, sometimes ten able horses, and which I can with certainty recommend as a most useful implement in all fenny countries.

“ I am greatly indebted to the inventor ; for with this, in one day, I cut drains nearly eight miles in length, thirteen inches in depth, twenty inches wide at the top, and five at the bottom, more perfect than could have been done in that land by the hand, and which would have cost, if done by hand, seven pounds five shillings and ten pence.

“ The summer in 1783 was employed wholly as above, in laying the land dry. In the year 1784 some few acres were ploughed, and yielded a tolerable crop of spring corn ; some yielded a very inferior kind of hay : the rest was pastured. Early the last year I prepared for oats and barley, and ploughed nearly two hundred large acres.

“ The effects of the drainage appear from the crops ; for I have sold barley for eleven pounds seventeen shillings and six-pence the large acre, the produce of the land which before let at no more than four shillings the acre ; and oats at ten pounds seventeen shillings and six-pence per acre, off land, which would bring no price before ; the purchaser to cut, carry off, &c. all at his own expence.

“ From the lands which before afforded a very poor pasture in the driest summers, I last year fed several head of Scotch cattle, which did better than any that were fattened upon the best grazing lands in our neighbourhood. The best meadow lands in the most favourable seasons did not let for more than about nine shillings per acre.

“ Last



“ Last year I mowed many acres, worth three pounds, and let off several of inferior grafs, at two pounds per acre, referving the after-grafs for my own cattle.”

A fubfequent account, communicated by Mr. Eccleifton in 1789, begins with informing the Society of various loffes fufained in confequence of the failure of the banks of the river Douglas, and of the Leeds and Liverpool canal, which inundated the drained lands of the Meer, and caufed much damage. In the mean time, the works erected for the drainage itfelf had fully answered expectation, and had not failed in a fingle inftance. From thefe accidents, however, Mr. Eccleifton was induced to adopt the grazing rather than the tillage line. He found grafs-feeds and rape mixed, a very ufeful crop in keeping his lambs; and flax fucceeded well, being fit to pull earlier than any danger can raife from the autumnal floods. Good roads over fome of the fofter parts of the Meer, for feveral miles, have been made by means of faggots covered a confiderable thicknefs with fand. Of all flock, horfes have been found to anfwer beft on the natural coarfe grafs and weeds on the fofter lands; on which account he has greatly increafed his breed of thofe animals, of the coach kind. Lambs while on the ewe improve greatly on the Meer, but the ewes themfelves get out of condition, and old fheep are very fubjeét to the rot. Black cattle have not fucceeded well, great numbers of calves having been taken off by a difeafe here called the *bvon*.

## L Y D I A T E.

THIS is a townfhip in the parifh of Halfall. It is chiefly remarkable for a ruined edifice, formerly a chapel of eafe to Halfall church. It is  
a final,

a small, but most beautiful building, having a tower steeple, with pinnacles and battlements, venerably overgrown with ivy. Over the door are the letters L. I. for Lawrence Ireland, probably the founder, of the family of Irelands of Lydiat-hall. The present owner is Henry Blundell, Esq. of Ince.

### SEPHTON PARISH.

SEPHTON parish contains the townships of *Sephton*, *Netberton*, and *Lunt*, *Ince Blundell* and *Little Crosby*, *Thornton* and *Great Crosby*, *Litherland*, *Ayntree*, *Orrell*, and *Ford*. The farms in this neighbourhood are for the most part small, few rising to £.100 per annum. The country is mostly divided into very small tenements or leaseholds granted for three lives. As a proof of their smallness, the late Henry Blundell, Esq. of Ince, had in Formby, Aynsdale, and Birkdale, 230 such tenements, consisting of about 1300 Lancashire acres. This mode of letting is disadvantageous to the landlord, whose rents and fines amount to a small proportion of the real value, but seems to have had a good effect on the country, by filling it with inhabitants and comfortable buildings, and causing several branches of manufacture to be set up. For these leasehold tenants consider themselves as better than the common small farmers, and are above going to service or day labour; in consequence of which the men betake themselves to some trade or business, and the women to spinning cotton, which causes their living and dressing better, and the consequent greater consumption of articles of provision and cloathing. Few landlords, however, now chuse to renew the old way of leasing.

The sea-shore all along this coast is remarkable for its flatness and number of large sand banks, highly dangerous to shipping in strong westerly winds, which are very prevalent here. The sea is supposed to abound with fish, but few are taken, and those only with hook and line, the fishermen either not possessing boats to go out to sea, or not chusing to trust themselves on such a boisterous coast. The kinds taken are chiefly cod, ray or skaite, and flounders. The shore is protected by a barrier of sand hills, held together by the *star* or sea-reed, the roots of which penetrate deep into the sands, and offer a fixed point round which they may collect. This star is useful for making mats, besoms, thatch, &c. but the law is very strict with regard to cutting it, since when it is destroyed, the hills are presently blown away, and the lands behind overwhelmed by a moving sand. These hills are in some places half a mile broad, with several large openings or flats of land between them; and when in the midst of them, no desarts of Arabia can appear more dreary. There is little or no timber growing on the coast; and a person, from observing that all the trees to a great distance up the country are, as it were, shorn on the west side, and bent the opposite way, would be apt to conclude that none would grow; yet it is certain that the country was once very woody, for in the moss lands, large quantities of oaks are often found within a foot or two of the surface, lying with their heads all one way, as if blown over by a violent west wind, or overthrown by a sudden irruption of the sea. A gentleman in this parish got up near fifty loads out of one field, the wood mostly ordinary, and fit only for fuel. Sometimes trees of value are met with. The wood is usually dark-coloured and of little durability, though often used for posts and fencing. Many of the moss lands are so full of it that they are with difficulty ploughed. Along the sea-shore, and near the Grange land-mark, are the stumps of several large trees, which, by

being in a line and at equal distances, were undoubtedly planted: whence it would seem as if formerly either the climate was not so rough, or the sea did not advance so far, since there would now be no possibility of raising trees in the same situation. It appears, however, as if the sea had formerly overrun a good deal of this country, from the strata of sea-flutch, moss, sand, and shells found in various parts; and the sea now again seems retiring.

The village of *Sephton* is placed on a range of fine meadows that reach almost to the sea, and in great measure supply Liverpool with its hay. It is watered by the *Alt*, a small trout stream which empties into the sea near Formby, but for want of sufficient fall to carry off its waters, its banks remain inundated the whole season after the first winter floods. Sephton is a rectory. The church is a large and handsome edifice, consisting of a body and two aisles, battlemented and crenellated. The steeple is an elegant spire. The present church was built in the time of Henry VIII., as is said, by Anthony Molyneux, its rector, a celebrated preacher, and distinguished for acts of piety. The chancel is divided by a screen from the body, and contains sixteen stalls of elegant sculpture. The family of Molyneux had their ancient seat in this town, where their Norman ancestor, William de Moulins, settled on the grant made him by Roger de Poitiers. In the chancel of the church has been for many ages the burying-place of this race, of many of whom monumental memorials are still preserved. One of these records Sir Richard Molyneux, who distinguished himself in the battle of Agincourt, and was knighted by Henry V.; another, Sir William, who was in three actions against the Scots in Henry VIII.'s time, and in that of Flodden, with his own hand took three banners, for which service he was thanked

by a letter under Henry's own seal. The Lancashire archers greatly contributed to this victory.

A chapel on the north side of the chancel contains several modern monuments of the Molyneux family. There is in the church another chapel, belonging to the ancient family of Blundells, of Ince-Blundell.

*Litherland* in the parish of Sephton is a manor belonging to the Molyneux family, which had an old hall, now demolished, but the extent of which may yet be traced by the ruins. The family seat is now removed to Croxteth.

## WALTON PARISH.

THIS is a large parish, adjoining on the north to Liverpool, which town it formerly included. The living is a very valuable rectory, containing, besides the parish church, five chapels of ease. The church, seated upon a fine eminence, is a sea-mark, and its situation affords a very extensive prospect in all directions. The parish of Walton includes the township of Toxteth-park, Derby, Croxteth-park, Kirkby, Simon's-wood, Walton, Bootle, Everton, Kirkdale, Fazakerly, Formby, Anfield, Ravers-meals, and Linacre. There was an ancient family of the Waltons of Walton. The last of the name, who owned all the lands in Walton, left three daughters, co-heiresses. By one of them, a third part passed to the family of Fazakerly, in which it continued till sold to the late James earl of Derby. Another part went to the Chorleys, of Chorley, but being forfeited in the rebellion of 1715, it was purchased by Mr. Crompton and others. The other third went to the family of Hoghton, of Hoghton-tower by the descendants of which, most of the estate was sold to Mr. Atherton.

*Bootle* lies near the sea, on a very sandy soil, and contains some good houses. A very copious spring of soft, pure water rises near it, which turns a mill about half a mile below, and soon after falls into the sea at Bootle-bay.

*Linacre*, a pretty rural village, is a member of the manor of Bootle, and lies adjacent to the sea.

*Kirkdale*, in the same manor, to the south of Bootle, is a pleasant village, agreeably seated on the declivity of a hill. It was part of the estate of the family of More, or de la More, who established themselves here about the year 1280, and built More-hall near Liverpool. They also built Bank-hall, situate in Kirkdale, near the sea, which was a curious specimen of ancient architecture, with many relics of family antiquities, but all demolished twenty or thirty years since.

*West Derby* and *Everton* belong to the earl of Derby, under whom they are held by copyholders paying fixed rents and fines. The latter place is now joined to Liverpool by new buildings.

*Croxteth-hall*, the seat of the earl of Sefton, was rebuilt by William lord Molyneux, grandfather to the present earl.

## CHILDWALL PARISH.

THIS lies south-east of Liverpool. It is very extensive, and includes Hale, Speke, Garston, Wavertree, Allerton, and Great and Little Woolton. Its living is a vicarage, containing two chapelries.

In the manor of *Speke* is a hall, where are several remains of antiquity, particularly a curious piece of wainscot, brought by Sir Edward Norris from the library of the king of Scotland, after the battle of Flodden-field.

In *Garston* is an ancient house, called *Aigbburgh-hall*, formerly a seat belonging to the Tarleton family.

*Woolton-hall* is a noble mansion, purchased from the Molyneux family by Nicholas Ashton, Esq. who has made large additions to it. It is placed on an eminence, and commands a fine and extensive prospect.

All the villages in the vicinity of Liverpool are filled with the country seats and places of retirement of the merchants and other inhabitants of Liverpool, which give an air of cheerfulness and culture to a tract of country, not of itself much favoured by soil or climate.

## L I V E R P O O L.

THE great sea-port of Liverpool, the other eye of Lancashire, bears so important a relation to the system of commerce which we have traced from Manchester through the surrounding country, and is, besides, so distinguished an object in the maritime history of this kingdom, that we should do injustice to our plan not to bestow on it a large share of attention. Our labours are abridged by the elegant and valuable Essay towards its History, published by Dr. Enfield, partly from

papers left by Mr. George Perry, and partly from original materials. As far as this work comes down (which is to the year 1772) we shall not scruple to make use of its authorities, which are drawn from the best sources. For later periods we shall trust to the results of our own inquiries.

The river Mersey, having held nearly a western course till within a few miles of its termination, makes a sudden bend to the north, and at length enters the sea by a channel forming almost a continued line with the coast of Lancashire. On the eastern side of this channel, about three miles within the mouth of the river, at a place where the channel is most contracted, Liverpool is situated. It is proper here to observe, that it appears from Leland, that in his time, the whole broad estuary of the Mersey turning from Runcorn to the sea, was commonly called *Eyrpoole*, (as, indeed, the termination *pool* properly denotes a detached or enclosed piece of water;) whence it would seem, that the town was originally named from its situation, as being, probably, the most remarkable collection of buildings belonging to this *pool* or *haven*.

The quantity of water running down the Mersey being small in proportion to its breadth, its fitness for a haven depends solely upon the tides. At Liverpool, the water, at spring tides, rises to the height of about thirty feet, and in neap tides of about fifteen feet. This great body of water, rushing up the bed of the river, causes, at the narrow parts of the channel, a head similar to that of the *hygre* in the rivers of the Bristol channel. The breadth of the channel of the Mersey opposite Liverpool, at its most contracted part, is 1200 yards at high water, but it soon widens both above and below.



The first existence of a town in this spot is traced by Cambden to the time of William the Conqueror, when Roger of Poictiers, lord of the Honour of Lancaster, built a castle here. Charters were granted to the town in 1129 by Henry I., in 1203 by John, and in 1227 by Henry III. In the last of these it was constituted a perpetual corporation and free borough, with a merchant guild and other liberties. About the year 1360, in the reign of Edward III. the castle of Liverpool was the property of Sir Thomas Latham, of Latham, who presented it, with several other houses and certain portions of land in Liverpool, to Sir John Stanley, who had married Isabel his only daughter and the heiress of Latham. Sir John, upon this, during his government of Ireland, built here a spacious house, and obtained leave of Henry IV. to embattle it. He called the whole structure *the tower*, by which name it was known as long as it continued standing.

From this time nothing occurs respecting the history of Liverpool, except the confirmation of its charters and enlargement of its privileges by several successive kings, till the time of Leland's tour through the kingdom at the beginning of the sixteenth century. His description of it (divested of ancient language) is as follows: "Lyrpole, alias Lyverpoole, is a paved town, having only a chapel; its parish church being Walton, four miles distant, near the sea. The king has a castle, and the earl of Derby a stone-house in it. Irish merchants resort thither as to a good haven, and much Irish yarn bought by Manchester men, and other merchandize, is sold there. The customs paid at Liverpool are small, which causes the resort of merchants." Either, however, the town underwent a subsequent decline, or the trade was carried on little to the advantage of the inhabitants; for it appears, that in 1565 there were in Liverpool only 138 householders and cottagers, and all the ship-

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ping of the place consisted of ten barks (the largest of forty tons burthen) and two boats, the whole making 223 tons, and navigated by seventy-five men : and at Wallasey, a creek opposite, were three barks and boats, making thirty-six tons, and navigated by fourteen men. That it *had* undergone a decay may probably, though not certainly, be inferred from the language of a petition sent up by the inhabitants to queen Elizabeth, in 1571, praying to be relieved from a subsidy, in which it is styled her Majesty's poor *decayed* town of Liverpool.

From this period to that of the civil wars, the increase of its population and trade could not be very considerable, since we find no mention of the place worthy of being recorded ; yet it must have received some augmentation, as it was able to undergo a brisk siege of a month's continuance from prince Rupert in 1644. It was strongly garrisoned by the Parliament, and fortified with a mud wall and ditch, defended by batteries on the land side ; and besides its castle, which was furnished with many cannon, and commanded the river and country round, a fort of eight guns was erected on the river's side. It was at length taken, through negligence or treachery, and some execution was done by the Prince's troops on entering it. Not long after, however, it was re-possest by the Parliament's forces, and colonel Birch was appointed governor. The importance of the town probably depended chiefly on its being a ready transit to Ireland. At this, and at former periods, the family of More at Bank-hall appear to have been leading persons at Liverpool.

It was not till the end of the century, that Liverpool became considerable enough to be emancipated from its parochial dependence on Walton, and to be made a distinct parish. In the year 1699 the act for this purpose

purpose passed, by which also, the corporation was empowered to build a new church, in addition to the former parochial chapel, and it was provided, that two rectors should be appointed, one for each, who should jointly possess all rectorial rights within the town of Liverpool. The patronage of the rectory was vested in the mayor, aldermen, and common council for the time being. The old parochial chapel was the church of St. Nicholas ; the new one, that of St. Peter. The registers of marriages, christenings, and burials, to the commencement of the present century, give the following numbers :

Year.	Marr.	Christ.	Bur.	Year.	Marr.	Christ.	Bur.
1624	4	35	21	1680	3	108	51
1662	5	30	30	1690	10	120	151
1670	5	67	48	1700	34	131	125

The small proportion of marriages in the earlier periods, and their sudden increase in the last, must be attributed to the difference in the parochial jurisdiction of the town. From these lists it would appear, that even in the first year of this century, Liverpool did not possess a population of more than about 4240 persons.\*

In 1710, the increase of trade had suggested the necessity of a dock, and an act passed for the purpose of empowering the town to construct one. Before this time, the ships must have lain in the open channel opposite the town, as there is no natural creek or inlet from it. About this period, the number of the ships belonging to the port was eighty-

\* It is stated in the *History of Liverpool* at 5714 ; but by following the rule of multiplication there laid down, and making the proportional allowance for non-registered births, the result is no more than we have given.

four, averaging somewhat less than seventy tons burthen each, and navigated by eleven men at a medium. The port was, however, frequented by above three times that number of ships belonging to other places. As the Irish trade was the original branch of the Liverpool commerce, so it continued to be the principal one; and the decline of the port of Chester, with the increased traffic between the two kingdoms, gave great vigour to this intercourse. Many natives of Ireland successively settled in Liverpool for the purpose of carrying on their commercial plans, and laid the foundation of some of the principal mercantile houses in it. They likewise contributed much to form the local character and manners of the town, which have considerably differed from those of the inland towns of Lancashire, as well as of other sea-ports. The relative situation of the Isle of Man with respect to Liverpool, caused the greatest part of its trade also to center in this port. The importation of iron, timber, hemp, flax, and naval stores, from the northern countries of Europe, must have been an early branch of business at a thriving port, connected with a country rapidly increasing in buildings and manufactures. And as opulence and elegance of living gained ground, the supply of wine, fruits, and other articles from the south of Europe, would naturally be sought for by a direct importation from those parts, instead of the circuitous medium of London or Bristol.

We have not been able to obtain any documents concerning the commencement of the West India trade in Liverpool; but as a small vessel is said to have sailed for Africa in the year 1709, it may be presumed that some portion of the direct traffic to the West Indies existed as early as that period.

The supply of Liverpool with water was now thought a matter of importance; and an act passed in the same year with the dock act, for enabling the corporation to make a grant to Sir Oleave Moore, Bart. for liberty to bring fresh water into the town. This useful scheme, however, for want of money, or some other circumstances, was never put in execution.

It was in 1709 that the spirit of charity, a general attendant upon commercial prosperity, began to make its appearance at Liverpool in the institution of the Blue-coat Hospital, first called the Charity-school. A small building, now part of the free-school, was erected by benefactions, and forty boys and ten girls were provided with cloaths and instruction by an annual subscription of about £.30, and £.20 out of the sacrament money. In 1714, Bryan Blundell, Esq. a liberal contributor to this charity, became its chief manager. He set on foot a subscription for a building in which the children might live together under proper discipline and provided with all necessaries, generously setting the example by a large benefaction of his own; the building was begun in 1716, and completed in 1726, at the expence of upwards of £.2000. It then received sixty children, who were taught to work in the school, and employed in spinning cotton.

To proceed with the gradual increase of the town, we shall remark, that in 1715 an act was obtained for the building of a third church, upon the site of the old castle. It was not, however, completely finished and consecrated till 1734. This is St. George's church, a large and handsome building, fitted up with peculiar elegance on the inside. It is the corporation-chapel, at which the mayor, aldermen, and common-council usually attend.

The number of inhabitants in 1720 is computed at 10,446, considerably above double that in the first year of the century. In the same year, an act passed for making navigable the rivers Mersey and Irwell as far as Manchester ; the first of those schemes for internal navigation in Lancashire, which have since multiplied to such a degree, to the benefit of the whole country, and especially of Liverpool, the great centre of its export and import trade.

The same year, 1720, likewise gave rise to a still more important design of water-communication, which was that by means of the river Weaver, with Northwich and Winsford-bridge. The great utility derived to the trade of Liverpool from the inexhaustible quantity of salt brought down from these places, has already been noticed, and some particulars of this branch of commerce will hereafter be given under the head of Northwich. But although the act passed this year, it was not till a considerable time afterwards that its purposes were fully brought into effect.

About the same time, attention was paid to the improvement of its communications by land, and the roads to Prescott and other parts were enlarged and repaired by the aid of turnpikes.

In the year 1730 the number of people exceeded 12,000. This is the first year in which we find an account of ships sailing to Africa, the single sloop in 1703 excepted. Concerning the slave trade, for which Liverpool has since become so peculiarly distinguished, it is difficult to speak with the coolness of discussion that belongs to commercial topics in general. On the one hand, it has been warmly arraigned by the friends of justice and humanity, and, indeed, by the common feelings of the uninterested part of mankind ; on the other hand, it has been as warmly defended

fended by those who are ardent in the pursuit of every extension of individual and national wealth. To consider only its *commercial* effects upon this place, we may say, that it has coincided with that spirit of bold adventure which has characterised the trade of Liverpool, and rapidly carried it to its present state of prosperity ; has occasioned vast employment for shipping and sailors, and greatly augmented the demand for the manufactures of the country. Some, however, are of opinion that it has pushed this adventurous spirit beyond all due bounds ; has introduced pernicious maxims and customs of transacting business ; has diverted to itself the capital and attention which might have been better employed on other objects, and has occasioned a great waste of lives among the seamen. Meantime, its being still an object in which the town regards its interests as deeply involved, seems a sufficient proof that its benefits, in a commercial view, have at this port apparently exceeded its mischiefs.

An act had passed in 1717 for enlarging the time granted by the first dock act, which contained powers for making an additional dock and building a pier in the open harbour, and for enlightening the said dock ; and in 1738 another act passed for enlarging the time of the last act ; whence it may be concluded, that its purposes as to the making of the second dock were not yet completed. It was probably for the want of these conveniences, that the tonnage of ships entering inwards was no greater in the year 1737 than it had been in 1716 ; but after this period, the increase became rapid. The augmentation of inhabitants was proportional ; for in 1740, they were by computation more than 18,000.

About the year 1745, a subscription was opened at Liverpool for the establishment of one of those excellent charities, an infirmary. The work was begun the same year ; but owing to the national disturbances

at that period, its completion was retarded, so that the house did not open for the reception of patients till 1749. This, however, was earlier than the date of the greater part of those institutions of the like kind, with which so many of our provincial towns are now honoured.

At the same period (that of the last rebellion) the town of Liverpool displayed its consequence, and its attachment to the present royal family, in a very spirited manner. A regiment of foot, called the Liverpool Blues, was raised in the town, consisting of eight companies of seventy men each, with proper officers, &c. They continued in pay about fifteen weeks, during eight of which they were under marching orders, and were at the taking of Carlisle, where they were reviewed by the duke of Cumberland. The whole expence of this armament amounted to £.4859, of which the corporation contributed £.2000, and the town raised the rest. Besides this regiment, five companies of volunteers, consisting of sixty men each, exclusive of officers, were raised in the town, and instructed in the military exercise: one of which kept guard nightly while the disturbances of the kingdom lasted. Though Liverpool was then only in its early youth, few towns in England were probably capable of a similar exertion.

In 1749 an act passed for building another church in Liverpool, and for lighting and cleansing the streets. The church was St. Thomas's, consecrated the next year, and distinguished by the simple beauty of a lofty and elegant spire.

An institution of peculiar use, the design of which was formed in 1747, was carried into execution in 1752. This was an hospital for decayed seamen, their widows and children, supported by a monthly



contribution of sixpence, which every seaman from this port is obliged to pay out of his wages. The building forms the wings of the infirmary; it cost £.1500. The business of the institution is conducted by a committee chosen annually.

An act for the more speedy recovery of small debts in the town and its liberties, similar to what has been found necessary in all populous and trading towns, passed in 1753.

The internal water-communications of Liverpool were increased by the Sankey canal, the act for which passed in 1755, and which for many years after continued to improve in the facility and extent of its navigation. It afforded from the first a new supply of coals to Liverpool, and by the works since established upon it, has in various ways added to the business of this port.

By the year 1760, the population of Liverpool had reached, by computation, 25,787 souls, and the tonnage of the shipping belonging to its port was above four times that of the year 1709. It was provided with a convenient custom-house, a large and handsome exchange, a neat playhouse, and all the other useful and ornamental structures belonging to a wealthy commercial town. In 1762, such was the present state and future prospects of the town, that an act was obtained for building two new churches at once, and also for making an additional dock and pier, and erecting lighthouses in or near the port. The taste for show and expence, however, caused more than all the money destined for the two churches to be consumed in building one, which was St. Paul's, consecrated in 1769. This is a magnificent structure, upon a plan in some measure imitative of that of the first religious edifice in England.

England, which bears the same name. Like that, it has a grand portico at the west end, two inferior projections in the north and south fronts, and a dome. This last, though favourable to its architectural effect, has been found greatly to injure its utility as a place for speaking in. It is to be observed, that the erection of places of worship for the various classes of separatists had been keeping pace during these periods, in number and elegance, with that of the churches of the establishment.

The new dock, more spacious than either of the former, was a vast addition to the accommodation of the port, and its piers and quays greatly improved its beauty and grandeur. It was not finished till about 1771.

The duke of Bridgewater's canals had by this time begun to operate in adding to the business of Liverpool. The Grand Trunk communication between the Trent and the Mersey, so important to the trade of both rivers, was carrying on with vigour. The vast design of a communication between Liverpool and Leeds, crossing one large county, and penetrating into another, was begun to be executed in 1770, and it was not long before that part of it which extends from Liverpool to Wigan was completed, affording such plentiful supplies of coal as greatly to add to the exportation of that commodity from this port.

The increasing number of poor in Liverpool had caused several successive changes in the management of them. At length it was determined to erect a large and commodious poor-house in an airy situation adjoining to this town, and money for this purpose was borrowed under the corporation seal. The building was begun in March 1770, and finished for the reception of the poor in August 1771, at an expence of  
near

near £.8000. It was calculated to contain 600 inhabitants, and few institutions of the kind have been better managed.

A new and spacious theatre, by royal patent, built by subscription at the expence of £.6000, was opened in June 1772. It is probably the largest in England out of London, and is elegantly finished both on the outside and within. Its passages and communications are particularly well managed, and were much superior to those of the London theatres at the time of its erection. The inhabitants of Liverpool have at all times been liberal encouragers of dramatic entertainments.

In the beginning of the year 1773 a plan was executed which ought never to be long neglected in a large town—that of an actual enumeration of its inhabitants. The result was as follows :

Inhabited houses,	-	-	-	5928
Untenanted do.	-	-	-	412
Families,	-	-	-	8002
Inhabitants,	-	-	-	34,407
Persons to a house,	5 $\frac{1}{2}$			
to a family,	4 $\frac{1}{2}$			

In this statement, the poor-house, infirmary, and other buildings, where large numbers live together, were included. With respect to the seafaring men employed in the Liverpool ships, they were found to be about 6000. Of these, about two-thirds were reckoned to be usually absent from Liverpool, and therefore not to be accounted among the stated inhabitants. The annual deaths in Liverpool were estimated upon an average of three years, at 1240, or one in 27 $\frac{1}{2}$  of the inhabitants; the annual births on the same average were computed at 1290. It is imagined by many, that this enumeration was considerably short of the real number; the poor, it is said, frequently giving in a defective list, through fear of a tax. This may in some instances have been the

case ; but, on the other hand, we should be on our guard against that spirit of exaggeration, which, in *every* town, disposes its inhabitants to aggrandize all its claims to superiority. The proportion of people to families and houses as stated, agrees very well with the best authorities in other places. We shall further remark, that enumerations of this kind should not be left, as this was, to the exertions of individuals, but should be undertaken by authority, whence all suspicion of inaccuracy might be obviated.

Having thus carried our historical sketch of the rise and progress of Liverpool to a period in which it takes its fair station as the *second* sea-port, and one of the largest and most important towns, of the kingdom, we shall compose the rest of the article of papers and documents respecting its subsequent events and present state, with various detached particulars of its commerce and other circumstances belonging to it.

*Government and Police.*—By the latest charters granted to Liverpool it is ordained, that the body corporate should consist of forty-one persons, composing the common council ; out of whom should be annually chosen a mayor, recorder, and two bailiffs. They who have borne the office of mayor, are styled aldermen. The mayor, recorder, senior aldermen, and preceding mayor, were by the charter of William III. directed to act as magistrates in the town ; but their number, upon the great increase of population, proving insufficient, the charter of George II. further ordained, that the preceding mayor should act as justice of the peace for four years after he is out of office ; and that the four aldermen, next to the senior aldermen, whilst members of the common council, should be additional justices within the town, and the recorder should have a power to nominate a deputy.

Previously

Previously to the reign of Charles II. the freemen at large exercised the right of chusing their own corporate officers; but since that period, here, as in many other places, the corporate body assumed the power of filling up all vacancies within themselves. The free burgesses have now, however, reclaimed their right. The mayor and bailiffs are chosen annually on October 18th. The general session is held four times a year by two justices of the peace at least, and by adjournment every Monday. The mayor attends daily at the town-clerk's office in the Exchange to transact public business. A court of requests is held also at the Exchange every Wednesday. The number of its commissioners is seventeen, appointed by the common council monthly.

Liverpool has a bridewell and a borough gaol. The former was built in 1776, upon an improved plan. A new gaol is now just finished, a great and costly structure, containing all the improvements suggested in Mr. Howard's works, and introduced into the modern architecture of those buildings.

This borough sends two members to Parliament, who are chosen by the votes of all the free burgesses not receiving alms. All persons who are born free, who have served an apprenticeship under freemen, or who have obtained their freedom by grant or purchase from the corporation, have the right of voting. Their number is reckoned at 2300. The freemen of Liverpool are also free of Bristol, and of Waterford and Wexford in Ireland.

Many useful regulations have been made for the government of the port, including the management of the wet, dry, and graving docks, and the laws respecting pilots and pilotage. From the difficult ap-

proach to the harbour, the pilotage is a matter of great importance, and no pilot boats in England are reckoned to be better found, and more skilfully managed, than those belonging to Liverpool. Some of them are constantly cruizing in order to meet and conduct the homeward bound ships.

*Charities and other Public Institutions.*—The *Infirmary*, mentioned above as opened in 1749, is situated on an elevated spot at the eastern entrance of the town. It is a neat brick building ornamented with stone, connected by handsome colonnades with two wings, which form the sailors' hospital. The principal building is three stories high, and consists of large wards, with other necessary apartments. It has been gradually increasing the number of patients accommodated in it, and its receipts and disbursements have advanced proportionably. The average number of in-patients is now about 130. The number of out-patients is comparatively small, on account of the institution of a dispensary. The expenditure of the year ending March 1793 amounted to £.2724, which sum that year (owing to particular circumstances) exceeded the receipts by £.376; but it cannot be questioned that in such a town adequate exertions will at all times be made for the support of so useful an establishment. A *Lunatic Asylum* has lately been erected at a considerable expence, connected with this charity. The concerns of the infirmary are managed by a president, treasurer, deputy-treasurers, and auditors, with committees of the subscribers. The sick are attended by three physicians, and three surgeons.

The *Dispensary* is an institution liberal in its plan, and highly beneficial in its effects. Its avowed object is to afford medical relief to the poor at their own dwellings; but medical relief is in many cases only another phrase for a more cordial or plentiful diet; and hence this charity

has often been the means of providing a resource for the unfortunate stranger, when deprived of all other assistance, and without any legal claim for support. It was instituted in the year 1778, chiefly by the interposition of some of the medical gentlemen of Liverpool, on whose recommendation a competent subscription was speedily obtained. It is directed by a president, two auditors, and a committee of the subscribers. The professional duty was originally performed by three physicians and three surgeons, who receive no compensation for their trouble, and an apothecary, who resides on the spot and receives a salary; but the number of physicians was in the year 1791 increased to seven, who visit the patients according to regulations established among themselves. In the year 1782 a handsome building was erected in Church-street for the more convenient distribution of medicines, the accommodation of the physicians and surgeons, and the residence of the apothecary. Of the extensive usefulness of this charity an idea may be formed from the following extract from the printed report for the year 1794.

Patients admitted in 1794,	-	-	-	-	13,760
Remaining on the books from the former year,	-				642
Of these were					<u>14,402</u>
Cured,	-	-	-	-	12,880
Relieved,	-	-	-	-	366
Removed to the Infirmary,	-	-	-	-	30
Irregular,	-	-	-	-	65
Dead,	-	-	-	-	397
Remaining on the books,	-	-	-	-	664

The disbursements of the charity for this year amounted to £.777.

During the severe and sickly months of February and March 1795, upwards of 3000 applications were made to this charity for relief, and

when it is considered that the infirmary, though an excellent and well-conducted establishment, is in its nature principally confined to such patients as choose to relinquish domestic sympathy and assistance for a public ward, and can only admit within its walls a number much inferior to those who stand in need of relief, the absolute necessity of a charity of this nature in a populous town must be strikingly evident. The constant visits of the physicians and surgeons at the dwellings of the sick poor are attended with the most beneficial effects: order and cleanliness are introduced—infectious disorders are opposed in the first stage of their progress—and a sentiment of mutual good-will is excited between the different classes of society, of benevolence on the one hand, and of gratitude on the other, which cannot be too industriously cultivated.

The *Asylum for the Indigent Blind* is an establishment of a more peculiar nature, and was begun in the year 1790, under the auspices of a humane and public-spirited clergyman,\* who has also distinguished himself by extending the practice of inoculation in the town and neighbourhood of Liverpool, and other parts of the county, giving his attendance and supplying medicines gratis.—In reflecting on the situation of those persons who labour under that heavy calamity, the loss of sight, it must occur to every one that this misfortune is aggravated by a want of employment for the mind, and by a consciousness of being useless to themselves, and in many cases a burthen to others. Frequent experience has, however, shewn, that blind persons are capable of becoming expert in various mechanical employments, and in some cases, of making a surprizing proficiency in useful accomplishments. The education of persons in this situation requires, however, a different process

\* The Rev. Henry Dannel, Minister of St. John's.



from that which was usually adopted ; and it was therefore suggested, that if a school of industry were established for the blind, with proper instructors, the most beneficial effects might be derived from it. A subscription for this purpose was accordingly opened, and two houses, fronting the area before the infirmary, were rented, as a temporary accommodation for the pupils. The earnestness with which the benefits held forth by this institution were grasped at by the unfortunate objects of its kindness, is a convincing proof that their inactivity was not voluntary, nor their situation hopeless. Several pupils were immediately admitted of different ages, most of whom applied themselves diligently to the particular employment to which their talents or their fancy directed them. The principal occupations which, after a trial of some years, are found most suitable for the blind, independent of the use of various musical instruments, are the making of baskets and hampers of various kinds, of white and tarred bears, foot-cloths, lobby-cloths, the weaving of sheeting, hagabag, window-fash and curtain line, and the manufacturing of riding-whips, the latter of which they execute with particular neatness. Besides affording the pupils instruction gratis, the asylum allows them a weekly sum proportioned to the nature of their work, and the proficiency made by them ; which, with a small addition, in some instances, from their friends or parishes, enables them to provide for their own support, thereby relieving them in a great degree from the painful idea of absolute dependence on the bounty of others ; and, which is scarcely of less importance, affording them an active employment for those hours which would otherwise be spent in despondency and gloom.

The subscription for the support of this charity in the year 1794, amounted to £.409 from residents in Liverpool, and £.121 from resi-

dents in other places ; besides which, a separate subscription has been entered into for the erection of a suitable building, where it may be practicable to vary the occupations of the pupils ; particularly by affording them an opportunity of employments in the open air, to some of which, as the making of ropes, &c. there is no doubt but they would be fully competent. This commendable institution was in the year 1793 in danger of being abandoned—not from the want of pecuniary assistance, but of personal attention to its regulation ; but some respectable inhabitants of the town, with a generosity far exceeding the most lavish contribution of money, stepped in to its support, and by devoting to its interests a considerable portion of their time, have regulated its finances and established its utility on a permanent foundation.\*

The magistrates of Liverpool have paid particular attention to the *recovering of persons apparently drowned*, and saving them when in danger—such accidents being frequent among the people employed about the docks and shipping. The number brought to the house of reception during part of 1787 and 1788 was seventy, of whom not fewer than sixty-seven were saved—a proportion so far beyond that returned from other places, that it must be imputed to the alacrity with which the ample rewards bestowed have prompted the by-standers to take persons out of the water the instant they have fallen in. It is to be observed, that the accidents happening in the docks must usually have a number of witnesses, and that the art of swimming is very common among the people of this town.

*Workhouse.*—With the increase of the town, the number of poor, has, of course, increased ; and additions have been made to the new

\* On this occasion the humane exertions of Mr. Pudsey Dawson are entitled to particular commendation.

workhouse above-mentioned to enable it to receive the additional number. The following list will show the gradation of increase of the poor in the house :

Year ending March 25th.

1782	783	1787	966	1791	909
1783	920	1788	1018	1792	1003
1784	963	1789	1098	1793	885
1785	985	1790	1164	1794	1197
1786	946				

The tax for this period has been from 2s. to 3s. in the pound ; the latter for the four last years. By great reforms in the management, though the number of poor is greater than ever, the rate has been reduced to 2s. 6d. This is estimated to produce net about £.15,000.

The money paid by the overseers to the out, casual, and sick poor, for the year ending 24th of March 1794, was £.3075 9s. 1d. The expence of cloathing the in and out poor was £.1844 15s. 6d. and of provisions in the house, £.6063 16s. 7d. ; total, £.10,984 1s. 8d.—In the year 1790 the parish was indebted on several accounts in the sum of £.11,709 2s. 1d., but such has been the management under the guardians of the poor, that at the close of the present year, viz. on the 24th ult. it was expected there would be a surplus of £.4000.

The following paper affords so curious and instructive a species of information, that we have copied it entire from the printed report.

## STATE and EMPLOYMENT of PEOPLE in the WORKHOUSE, 25th March, 1794.

Governor, - - - -	1	Boys, Weavers, - - -	4
Matron and Chamberlain, - -	2	Ropers and Knotters, - -	9
House Servants, - - -	3	Coffin-makers, Joiners, and Boys,	6
Hall and Stair cleaners, - -	5	Boatbuilders, - - - -	4
Keeper of Lock and Servants, -	4	Two Smiths and Eighteen Boys,	
Two Cooks and Six Servants, -	8	making Nails <i>for Sale</i> and own	
Two Salters and Ten Washerwomen,	12	Use, - - - - -	20
Milk-mistress and Porter, - -	2	Yeomen of the Smithies, - -	2
Bread Cutter and Doctor's Assistant,	2	Spinners of Wool, Thread, and	
Mistress and Kneaders of Bread, -	11	Linen, - - - - -	59
Nurses and Servants for Infants, -	6	Knitters and Seamstresses, - -	51
Nurses for Lying-in Women, for		Four Sawyers, Seven Taylors, -	11
sick, infirm, venereal, fever, and		Cotton Pickers, - - -	266
lunatic Wards, - - -	14	Ditto Spinners, &c. - - -	42
Brewer, Warehoufeman, and Assis-		Tambour Workers, - - -	45
tant, - - - - -	4		
Two Carters, Two Swineherds, -	4	Matron's Family, - - -	4
One Coalman, Ten Labourers, -	11	Turnkey, - - - - -	1
Bell-ringer, Clerk, and Messengers,	5	Working People, - - -	663
Gardener and Assistant, Ten Pum-		Lunatics, Idiots, Sick, Lame, In-	
pers, - - - - -	12	firm, very old, very young -	524
Keeper of Lock's Family, - -	6		
Schoolmasters and Mistresses, -	4	In the House, - - - -	1197
Book-keepers, - - - -	2		
Barber and Painter, - - -	2	Average Number from 31st March,	
Bricklayers, Plaisterers, and Block-		1793, to 21st March, 1794, -	1032
maker, - - - - -	5	Ditto 29th March, 1792, to March,	
Flax-dresser, Leather-cutter, and		1793, - - - - -	826
Glazier, - - - - -	3		
Shoe-makers, - - - -	9	Average increase, - - -	206
Boys, ditto, - - - -	9		
Weavers, - - - - -	3		

A confi-

A considerable number of legacies and benefactions have at different times been made by individuals in favour of the poor of Liverpool, particularly of decayed sailors and their widows, for whom alms-houses have been erected in various parts of the town.

The *Blue-coat* charity, formerly mentioned, has continued to flourish under the management of attentive and generous trustees. The number of children it receives was, above twenty years ago, increased to 200. The building erected for it is of brick, ornamented with stone, containing numerous and commodious apartments, and furnished with suitable out-door conveniences.

Few commercial towns have in any considerable degree united a taste for literature and the fine arts with the pursuit of wealth; nor have we any public institutions of this kind to enumerate under the head of Liverpool. It has, indeed, a *Subscription Library* founded many years since, and well supported. In a room over the library, some gentlemen, above twenty years ago, opened an *Academy for Drawing and Painting*, in which it was proposed to deliver lectures on Anatomy, Perspective, Architecture, Painting, &c. with proper subjects and figures, and annual exhibitions of performances. But this truly liberal design was dropped, after a short trial, for want of encouragement; its only durable relic was a very elegant *Ode* on the Institution, written by a gentleman of the town, and read before the society in Dec. 1773. A few copies were printed at the time, and it was re-printed in 1777, along with the beautiful descriptive poem by the same writer, entitled *Mount-Pleasant*. This last should be peculiarly interesting to a native

of Liverpool, of which town and its vicinity it affords a striking view taken from the eminence bearing that name.

*Docks.*—It has already been observed, that the harbour of Liverpool is entirely artificial, consisting of docks formed within the town, and communicating with the river. No maritime town in Great Britain, perhaps in Europe, can vie with Liverpool in the number and extent of these works, which afford conveniences in loading and unloading of ships, superior to those enjoyed by any natural harbours. Of the docks there are two kinds, the wet and the dry. The former are so constructed with flood-gates, that water enough is pounded in them to keep the ships afloat in all times of the tide. The latter are the entrances to the others, and partake of the ebb and flow of the river. The wet docks are usually occupied by such ships as go foreign voyages; the dry, by coasting vessels: between these are several graving docks, which admit or exclude the water at pleasure, and are capable of receiving two or three vessels at a time, for the purpose of repairing them.

The docks extend along the river nearly the breadth of the town. In the centre is the *Old Dock*, running up a considerable way towards the heart of the town. To the west of it lies the *Saltbou Dock*, and the basin or dry dock, serving as the common entrance to both. These were the first constructed. To the north of these is situated *George's Dock*, with its dry basin, the next of these works, hollowed and embanked out of the river beach. And to the south are the newest docks, called the *King's* and *Queen's*, with one common dry basin at the entrance. The duke of Bridgewater has a small dock of his own  
between

between these and the Salthouse dock. The dimensions of the several docks are as follows :

	Yds.	Yds.		Ft.	In.		Ft.	In.	
Old Dock, -	195	by 85.	Its gates,	33	0	wide,	25	3	deep.
Salthouse Dock,	213	by 102.	Do. -	34	0	—	25	0	—
George's Dock,	246	by 100.	Do. -	38	3	—	26	2	—
King's Dock,	272	by 95.	Do. -	42	0	—	26	0	—
Queen's Dock,	280	by 120.	Do. -	42	0	—	27	0	—

The length of quay afforded by all these capacious basons, will appear on calculation to be so great, as to eclipse all the most famous of the river or shore quays in the different sea-ports ; and though their magnificence of prospect is diminished, their utility is increased, by having them accumulated within a moderate compass of ground, rather than extended in one long line.

The vast labour and expence of these works will readily be conceived by one who considers that they must all have been hollowed by hand from the shore, in continual opposition to the tides, which often in an hour destroy the labour of weeks ; and that the piers must be made of sufficient height and strength to bear the daily efforts of a sea beating in, and constantly endeavouring to recover its ancient boundaries.

On the sides of the docks are warehouses of uncommon size and strength, far surpassing in those respects the warehouses of London. To their different floors, often ten or eleven in number, goods are craned up with great facility. Government in particular has here a very extensive tobacco warehouse, occupying a large compass of ground. The space round the docks is sufficient to give room for

loading and unloading, and all the occupations of the failors, without interruption of each other, or of the crowds of passengers. Strangers may with ease drive along the quays, and enjoy the view of the busy scene without danger or inconvenience; a pleasure no where to be obtained on the river at London, where the close wharfs are absolutely inaccessible except by carts, and by them not to be approached without great obstruction. The entrance to the docks are crossed by draw-bridges, excellently constructed on the Dutch plan.

On the west side of the North Dock, by the river side, is a pier forming a fine parade, 320 yards in length, and of considerable breadth, which is a favourite walk of the inhabitants and strangers. It commands a noble view of the harbour from the rock point or commencement of the sea, to the distance of several miles up the river, and a beautiful landscape on the Cheshire side. Hence all the ships are distinctly seen as they work in and out of the harbour, and enter or quit the docks.\*

*Baths.*—

\* It will not, we trust, be unacceptable to the public, if we here give a sketch of a plan for wet docks in the port of London, now in agitation, and to be brought before Parliament this session. The following outlines of the design have been communicated to us by a friend. The situation fixed upon is in Wapping; its nearest part about a quarter of a mile from the Tower. The works will consist of

	Acres.	Rs.	Ps.		Ships.
A Basin or Outer Dock, comprising	-	3	0	35	for 33
London Dock, - - - - -	-	25	0	17	— 250
Inner Dock, - - - - -	-	10	2	0	— 105
		<hr/>			
		38	3	12	— 388

A large space of about thirty acres is to be left about the docks for quays, warehouses, &c. Ships are to be at liberty to discharge either on the quays, or into lighters; and for  
the



*Baths*.—A little northwards of the North Dock, Mr. Wright, an eminent ship-builder of the town, has erected a set of elegant and commodious sea-baths, divided into separate baths and rooms for both sexes, each bath supplied with water from the centre. On the outside are steps for the convenience of swimmers who chuse to launch into the open water, and who may frequently be seen plunging among the waves of a boisterous tide. It is the inconvenience of these baths, that they can only be used when the tide is in, there being no contrivance, as at Yarmouth, for a perpetual supply of water by means of a reservoir. They are, however, much frequented. The corporation intend to build another dock upon this spot, and to erect another set of baths, upon a much larger scale and improved construction, at their own expence. Being upon the subject of bathing, we shall mention an extraordinary mode of taking this salutary amusement *without baths*, practised upon the beach below the town for some weeks in the height of summer. It is a custom with the lower class of people, of both sexes, for many miles up the country, and even as far as the manufacturing districts to the very extremity of the county, to make an annual visit to Liverpool, for the purpose of washing away (as they seem to suppose) all the collected stains and impurities of the year. Being unable to afford a long stay, or to make use of artificial conveniences, they employ two or three days in strolling along shore, and dabbling in the salt-water for

the greater convenience of discharging, a large lighter dock is to be connected with the other docks, for the reception of thirty lighters each tide.—It is further in contemplation to form a cut of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles from Blackwall to the docks, admitting two loaded ships to pass at a time, in order to avoid the navigation round the Isle of Dogs and through the Pool.

The only docks of any moment now in the port of London are two private concerns, that of Mr. Wells, at Greenland dock, containing about twelve acres of ground, and of Mr. Perry, at Blackwall, containing about eight acres.

hours

hours at each tide, covering the beach with their promiscuous numbers, and not much embarrassing themselves about appearances. As the practice, however, seems conducive both to health and pleasure, it is not to be wished that rigid notions of delicacy should interfere with this only mode which the poor have of enjoying it.

*The Fort.*—At different periods, the harbour of Liverpool has been protected from temporary dangers of hostile attacks by the erection of occasional batteries; but in the American war, a fort of considerable size and strength was erected at a large expence on a point of land to the north of all the town, near the baths, and the public walk called the *Ladies' Walk*. It is nearly of a semi-circular form, constructed of the soft yellow stone from the quarries near the town, and well-furnished with light and heavy cannon. It contains buildings for the accommodation of the men and officers, by whom it is constantly occupied, and who keep guard with great regularity. Its situation, just above the level of the water, and commanding an uninterrupted range of the whole harbour, from its entrance to opposite the town, gives it every advantage for security that could be wished. But, in fact, the dangerous shoals at the mouth of the harbour, which shift every tide, and could not be passed without the assistance of pilots, and the direction of buoys and sea-marks, are a more effectual security.

*Buildings in general.*—The central parts of Liverpool, like those of almost all our towns, were close and narrow, the inconvenience of which was more and more felt as business and population increased. The corporation, (which has ever, beyond most in England, been active and liberal in promoting plans of public advantage) obtained from parliament powers for widening and improving the streets, which they have employed

ployed with great judgment and to a vast expenditure. About the Exchange, in particular, a great deal has been done; and Castle-street, which leads from it to St. George's church, is converted into a spacious and very well-built street, furnished with shops almost equal to those of Cheap-side. All the new parts of Liverpool are regularly laid out with straight and wide streets, some of them truly handsome. The material is for the most part brick. Everton, now entirely joined to Liverpool by buildings, forms, as it were, a new town, and is a favourite residence to those whose occupations do not oblige them to be near the centre of business.

The *Exchange*, a building of much cost and magnificence, which contained the town-hall and other public offices, as well as the assembly rooms, and was finished with great elegance and expence, unfortunately took fire by accident in the beginning of this year, and was entirely consumed, except the outer walls. Such a disaster, however, was calculated only to rouse the spirit of this enterprising town; and the following paragraph, copied from Gore's *Liverpool Advertiser* for March 19th, will show what a phoenix is likely to rise out of its ashes.

*Gore's Liverpool Advertiser, March 19th, 1795.*

“ IT is with the utmost satisfaction we are enabled to state, that the event of the late dreadful fire at the exchange, much as it has been lamented, is likely to be productive of most important good consequences to the public, and to those in particular whose business require their attendance in any of the offices belonging to it. A plan has been adopted by the common council, and ordered to be carried into execution, for the

the re-building of the Exchange, which, from the general disposition of the whole, and the particular arrangement of the various rooms and offices, will afford the most desirable conveniences for the public and private business of the mayor and corporation, and their respective officers, and very ample accommodation for the merchants and the public at large.

“ No other part of the old building will remain but the exterior walls, the fronts of which are universally admired for their architectural beauty, and have received no material injury from the fire ; the principal entrance from Castle-street will be into a spacious hall, leading to the grand stair-case in the *area*, which will now be placed in the center of the building, and over which will be erected the elegant dome designed by Mr. Wyatt, a model of which was lately exhibited in the Exchange. On the east side will be a commodious committee room, and range of offices for the town clerk, treasurer, surveyors, &c. opening into High-street ; and on the west side a noble coffee room, eight feet by thirty-two, the entrance to which will be on that side opposite to the brokers’ offices : at the north end, in the new building, will be the public office for the daily business of the magistrates, which, by means of a moveable partition, can at any time be enlarged to the size of sixty feet by forty, and form a most capacious *court room* for the sessions, or *hall* on occasions of public meetings, being a third part larger than the late town hall ; and there will be convenient offices at each end of the court room, for the magistrates and juries, and for the purpose of town’s committees, turnpike meetings, &c. By this arrangement, ample accommodation, and every convenience to be wished for, is provided for the public business *on the ground floor only* ; and the *suite* of rooms above stairs for the use of the mayor and council, and for public

public entertainments, will be rendered as complete as possible; they will consist of six principal rooms on one floor, the *ball room* being ninety feet by forty-five, two other rooms fifty by thirty, and the rest in proportion.

“ The outline and general disposition of this extensive plan has received the approbation of a professional gentleman of the first abilities, who will furnish designs for finishing its different parts.”

With respect to the proper use of an Exchange, that of a place where merchants meet to transact business, Liverpool has lost nothing by the demolition of its late edifice; since the merchants, from immemorial custom, always held their 'Change in the open space at the top of Castle-street, and were not, even by a shower, driven to shelter elsewhere than in the adjoining shops.

The *churches* and *chapels* of the establishment at present in Liverpool are the following :

St. Nicholas's,	St. Thomas's,	St. John's,
St. Peter's,	St. Paul's,	St. Ann's, '
St. George's,	St. Catherine's,	St. Stephens.

To which may be added, on account of their connection with the town by contiguity of building, St. Ann's, Richmond; and St. James's, Toxteth-park.

There are likewise several large and handsome places of worship, belonging to the different denominations of Dissenters, Methodists, Quakers, and Roman Catholics.

An extensive *pleasure walk*, called St. James's, handsomely laid out and planted, was made a good many years since on the high ground above the south end of the town. It commands a fine view of the town, river, and distant country, but the bleakness of its exposure makes it agreeable only in very fine weather, and is unfavourable to vegetation. Behind it, is a most extensive *stone quarry*, which offers a very striking spectacle. Labour has here exposed to view one continued face of stone, 380 yards long, and in many parts sixteen yards deep, forming a vast perpendicular wall, without a vein or crack. The entrance to it is by a subterraneous passage supported by arches, and the whole has a pleasing and romantic effect. The stone is a kind of sand stone of a yellowish hue, soft when cut, but afterwards hardening. It is used in the public buildings and works of the town. A chalybeat water of moderate strength springs in the quarry.

*Supply of Provisions, Coals, &c.*—The market days of Liverpool are Wednesday and Saturday. Few towns of the size are more plentifully and regularly supplied with provisions of all kinds, brought from a great distance round. The hundred of Wirral in Cheshire, particularly, furnishes large quantities of vegetables, fruit, butter, and other articles, which the market people bring over in the ferry boats that are continually passing and repassing the channel. Potatoes in great quantities, and excellent in kind, are brought from Ormskirk and the parishes in its neighbourhood. The farms in the vicinity of the town are much devoted to the production of milk, the demand for which, in so populous a place, is almost unlimited. Of the kinds of fish, occasionally brought to its markets, a pretty long list may be formed; but upon the whole it is less abundant than might be expected in a sea-port town. The Lancashire coast, as already observed, is not favourable for the  
establish-

establishment of fisheries. The Isle of Man furnishes supplies of the cheaper sorts, especially herring. As an article rather of *luxury* than of *provision*, turtle may be noticed, which arrives in considerable cargoes with the West India ships, and is no where better dressed or more hospitably bestowed, accompanied with unsparing draughts of beverage made from the excellent rum and limes derived from the same quarter of the world. Good *water* is, however, more of a rarity here than could be wished : and a stranger is struck with the water-carts driving through the streets, from which this necessary article is sold at a half-penny per bucket, a circumstance by no means conducive to cleanliness among the poor, or even those of middling condition. It is hoped that the corporation will either themselves find some better mode of supplying the town with water, or give permission for that purpose to some gentlemen who have proposed to form a reservoir on Everton, and thence convey it in pipes to every part of Liverpool.

With respect to *coals*, Liverpool is fortunate in having its sources for that essential article increased, with the increase of demand. The pits at Whiston, near Prescott, formerly supplied the town entirely, and they still send a large quantity, by land carriage, the carts for which purpose are no small nuisance at particular times on that road. The Sankey canal opened a new source, which, though distant, has the advantage of water carriage all the way ; and the Leeds and Liverpool canal, by means of its branch to Wigan, has made an ample addition, both in quantity and kind, much cannel, as well as common coal, being brought to Liverpool by its conveyance. The head of this canal, near the Ladies' Walk, is widened into a kind of basin, where boats can load and unload with the greatest convenience, in a large coal-yard. Between this and the Mersey, a square dock of considerable size is making, which will hold a great number of the navigation craft.

*Trade and Commerce.*—The most important circumstances relative to Liverpool are the progress and present state of its trade, which we shall endeavour, in addition to the information already given, to elucidate by tables and other documents drawn from the best authorities.

The dock duties are levied upon ships according to a certain rate per ton, which rate is determined by the place whence they come, increasing in a great ratio with the increase of distance. The following table exhibits the annual number of ships paying them, and the whole amount of the duties; and it will be observed, that this amount has gradually been in an increasing proportion to the number of ships.

*Dock Duties at Liverpool, from the Year 1752, ending the 24th of June each Year.*

Year.	Numb. of Ships.	£.	s.	d.	Year.	Numb. of Ships.	£.	s.	d.
1752		1776	8	2	1774	2258	4580	5	5
1753		2034	16	2	1775	2291	5384	4	9
1754		2095	11	0	1776	2216	5064	10	10
1755		2417	13	11	1777	2361	4610	4	9
1756		2187	16	9	1778	2292	4649	7	7
1757	1371	2336	15	0	1779	2374	4957	17	10
1758	1453	2403	6	3	1780	2261	3528	7	9
1759	1281	2372	12	2	1781	2512	3915	4	11
1760	1245	2330	6	7	1782	2496	4249	6	3
1761	1319	2382	2	2	1783	2816	4840	8	3
1762	1307	2526	19	6	1784	3098	6597	11	1
1763	1752	3141	1	5	1785	3429	8411	5	3
1764	1625	2780	3	4	1786	3228	7508	0	1
1765	1930	3455	8	4	1787	3567	9199	18	8
1766	1903	3653	19	2	1788	3677	9206	13	10
1767	1704	3615	9	2	1789	3619	8901	10	10
1768	1808	3566	14	9	1790	4223	10,037	6	2½
1769	2054	4004	5	0	1791	4045	11,645	6	6
1770	2073	4142	17	2	1792	4483	13,243	17	8½
1771	2087	4203	19	10	1793	4129	12,480	5	5
1772	2259	4552	5	4	1794	4265	10,678	7	0
1773	2214	4725	1	11					The



The next table gives the whole number and tonnage of ships, native and foreign, that have annually entered or left the port for a period of forty-three years.

*The Number of Ships and their Tonnage that have cleared outwards and entered inwards at the Port of Liverpool, from the Year 1751 to the Year 1793.*

Year.	Inwards.				Outwards.			
	British.		Foreign.		British.		Foreign.	
	Ships.	Tons.	Ships.	Tons.	Ships.	Tons.	Ships.	Tons.
1751	523	29,178	20	2535	588	31,185	20	2508
1752	529	29,137	46	5430	561	31,777	48	5884
1753	584	34,221	28	3515	601	34,689	22	3085
1754	577	32,255	44	5710	588	33,435	42	5843
1755	507	33,159	29	3425	519	30,660	27	3315
1756	522	29,793	48	5195	607	35,426	42	4542
1757	554	32,386	68	7300	609	37,881	57	7268
1758	602	36,263	63	7296	641	38,502	56	6277
1759	519	33,006	112	17,789	551	35,079	117	14,498
1760	556	36,884	76	10,535	592	37,157	81	11,663
1761	529	32,899	80	11,043	654	40,268	60	8223
1762	623	45,540	94	12,344	614	39,304	102	13,844
1763	574	39,714	78	11,584	700	44,863	92	13,596
1764	695	46,387	71	10,112	772	50,709	58	8132
1765	738	53,030	65	8134	795	53,807	70	9811
1766	646	51,623	54	7825	708	51,012	69	9370
1767	663	51,690	70	8011	784	57,376	66	9482
1768	727	54,949	57	7225	826	60,379	59	7950
1769	759	58,348	77	10,784	907	62,499	78	11,329
1770	743	46,062	63	7965	922	66,516	79	10,381
1771	764	59,734	55	6924	959	73,432	65	10,366
1772	857	68,812	68	8401	1022	81,689	73	11,284
1773	970	70,392	57	7111	1022	76,588	64	9366
1774	989	79,315	61	8032	973	76,892	64	8744
1775	1016	86,382	56	7294	983	76,686	57	7494
1776	901	74,140	81	12,991	937	68,488	75	11,616
1777	893	70,792	101	11,627	979	71,295	96	11,852
1778	838	76,277	100	13,342	857	63,420	95	11,782
1779	742	57,103	136	17,623	908	64,836	149	19,379
1780	739	58,769	133	17,087	880	61,573	151	19,202
1781	801	58,914	169	22,569	1021	65,477	182	25,899
1782	847	66,290	169	23,107	968	64,481	213	30,295
1783	1165	96,089	206	28,376	1355	105,074	222	32,294
1784	1217	122,263	162	26,091	1333	113,481	160	26,958
1785	1427	127,388	129	21,576	1446	122,195	129	21,990
1786	1381	140,224	150	27,611	1337	128,766	140	28,194
1787	1348	153,625	161	26,903	1474	159,834	180	31,715
1788	1570	140,812	152	25,600	1673	186,355	156	26,973
1789	1603	171,672	89	15,202	1486	170,369	87	14,456
1790	1864	205,440	200	35,677	1779	201,641	196	36,143
1791	1814	220,318	254	46,878	1904	225,641	263	46,839
1792	1832	225,242	215	41,166	1926	231,277	212	41,213
1793	1704	188,286	225	41,177	1739	169,770	240	47,719

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*Ships belonging to Liverpool.*—Before the regulations of the Manifest Act, the number of ships properly belonging to each port could not be ascertained with any certainty. We do not, therefore, copy any earlier accounts of this kind for Liverpool; but content ourselves with giving those for the seven years ending in 1793, which have been copied from the register of the shipping of that port.

Year.	Ships.	Tons.	Year.	Ships.	Tons.
1787	445	72,731	1791	528	83,696
1788	475	76,078	1792	584	92,098
1789	479	76,251	1793	606	96,694
1790	504	80,003			

The next table that we shall present, gives the particulars of the foreign trade of Liverpool, according to the *places* to and from which it has been carried on, for six successive years, ending in 1793. These exhibit a gradation of increase above all former periods, as far as the year 1792, which was the summit of the scale. Since that time, temporary causes have produced a decline here, as in almost all other commercial towns. This table has been most obligingly furnished us by the Inspector General of ports at the Custom-house in London.

An Account of the Number of Vessels, with the Amount of their Tonnage, that have entered Inwards and cleared Outwards in the Port of LIVERPOOL in the following Years, distinguished according to the Places whence and to which they made their Voyages. (N. B. Coasters excluded.)

	1788.						1789.						1790.						
	INWARDS.			OUTWARDS.			INWARDS.			OUTWARDS.			INWARDS.			OUTWARDS.			
	British.		Foreign.	British.		Foreign.	British.		Foreign.	British.		Foreign.	British.		Foreign.	British.		Foreign.	
	Shs.	Tons.	Shs.	Tons.	Shs.	Tons.	Shs.	Tons.	Shs.	Tons.	Shs.	Tons.	Shs.	Tons.	Shs.	Tons.	Shs.	Tons.	
Africa, — — — — —	18	3310		73	15394		12	1432		66	11564		11	1833		91	17917		
America, viz. British Colonies, — — — — —	4	1016		14	2745		3	220		8	1807		2	51		20	3731		
— — — — — United States, — — — — —	58	11644	49	7170	60	14244	51	7243		62	12883	37	5266	110	22471	58	14575	60	9679
— — — — — West India, — — — — —	188	34988		112	23442		156	33492		76	16195		125	32158	1	150	91	19622	
British Fishery, — — — — —	19	722					41	1316					31	930					
South Fishery, — — — — —				1	320											1	320		
Greenland Fishery, — — — — —	22	6774		22	6774		13	3715		18	5605		14	4532		13	4401		
Honduras Bay, — — — — —	4	573					2	434		1	77		3	604					
Ireland, — — — — —	970	64131	18	1584	999	63764	968	67784	13	1662	800	51114	82	11112	15	1991	1237	69351	
Isle of Man, — — — — —	99	3636	1	80	112	422	105	4583		111	4280		57	3310		55	4270		
Guernsey, — — — — —	1	93				1	1	72		5	430		1	118		8	992		
Jersey, — — — — —							21	160		6	324		1	25		7	225		
Denmark and Norway, — — — — —	5	963	15	2563	15	2202	21	91	5	747	23	6984	19	3567		3744	31	8822	
Russia, — — — — —	68	21345	1	127	22	808	1	112		18	6417		81	2228		55	18190		
Sweden, — — — — —	5	502	3	382	1	112	1	110		1	100		7	604		1	110		
Germany, — — — — —	19	1447	5	1066	25	4737	18	2238		10	1528	5	616	23	4482	5	1229	24	3588
Holland, — — — — —	19	1311	1	1207	17	947	6	666		11	780		22	2647		7	707	9	1153
Poland and Prussia, — — — — —	20	8595	4	11208	17	6917	47	11375		37	12407	11	670	65	23174	65	15742	30	16450
France, — — — — —	3	491	1	200	57	975	7	1336		20	7487	16	4239	83	23174	10	16450	38	10741
Spain, — — — — —	29	2655	5	525	55	875	8	1278		156	12604	1	156	1	61	3	435	6	11270
Portugal, — — — — —	20	251	4	367	22	2470	8	94		517	69	6756	1	159	7	920	50	5515	
Italy, — — — — —	18	2226	2	100	16	1713	3	198		295	19	1915	5	385	4	394	30	4367	
Turkey, — — — — —	14	1492					10	2026		18	2092		10	2114	2	201	17	1738	
													3	301		76	1559	5	683
Total	1559	115224	157	2560	16212	217	166485	164	11322	89	12202	1887	170446	87	14556	1163	252147	207	356711

# ACCOUNT of the Number of Vessels continued.

1791.				1792.				1793.			
INWARDS.		OUTWARDS.		INWARDS.		OUTWARDS.		INWARDS.		OUTWARDS.	
British.		Foreign.		British.		Foreign.		British.		Foreign.	
Shs.	Tons.	Shs.	Tons.	Shs.	Tons.	Shs.	Tons.	Shs.	Tons.	Shs.	Tons.
10	1622	102	19610	11	1643	132	22402	14	2260	52	10544
8	1550	22	4650	13	3490	26	6318	6	1411	22	4337
62	14587	103	18491	52	11834	71	15344	103	18796	17	4807
185	38196	98	19945	195	38902	115	24317	127	38911	108	22996
31	932			26	776			22	670		
1	320			1	459			2	419	3	710
15	4373			14	3971	14	5971	11	2978	11	2978
2	255			4	823	3	591	7	1463	1	253
998	74551	18	2149	1039	79965	15	2026	1073	82718	32	5347
103	4522			100	4159	118	4826	136	5734	3	365
						1	59			151	6860
1	70			1	102	1	40				
3	437	18	3075	35	8302	25	6068	4	439	9	1343
122	33129	62	18365	1	199	83	27011	1	380	28	9811
8	1035	6	718	6	726	4	335	52	10168	28	9811
12	2525	20	2601	11	1365	4	440	3	235	5	119
23	2409	10	784	25	3791	31	5648	6	941	22	4194
84	20400	72	18083	18	2282	16	2026	13	3068	16	2570
				1	47	5	242	3	608	10	1416
				32	9926	11	1083	2	270	30	8531
1	113	67	10165	46	12964	15	5517	12	1273	30	10127
41	4273	2	307	27	2991	15	5517	71	15740	25	5715
84	9923	3	313	1	96	71	13996	11	1788	34	10456
27	3110	33	3940	4	364	71	3078	4	467	3	340
15	1882	30	3656	35	6921	31	3830	5	494	17	2250
9	1027	1	323	2	328	55	6211	2	282	3	194
				328	26	2920	1	331	15	2166	
				34	3911			15	2029	15	1895
1845	221200	254	45378	1838	226018	215	41166	1726	188937	215	41177
243	1094	263	49830	212	41212	212	41212	215	41177	1836	191391
1836	191391	240	47710	1836	191391	240	47710	1836	191391	240	47710

Africa, — — — — —  
 America, viz. British Colonies, — — — — —  
 — United States, — — — — —  
 — West Indies, — — — — —  
 British Fishery, — — — — —  
 South Fishery, — — — — —  
 Greenland Fishery, — — — — —  
 Honduras Bay, — — — — —  
 Ireland, — — — — —  
 Isle of Man, — — — — —  
 Guernsey, — — — — —  
 Jersey, — — — — —  
 Denmark and Norway, — — — — —  
 Russia, — — — — —  
 Sweden, — — — — —  
 Germany, — — — — —  
 Holland, — — — — —  
 Poland and Prussia, — — — — —  
 Flanders, — — — — —  
 France, — — — — —  
 Portugal, — — — — —  
 Spain, — — — — —  
 Italy, — — — — —  
 Turk — — — — —

Total

The progress and fluctuation of the *African trade* in this port is a matter of such important speculation, that we have devoted a table to it alone, in which its annual state from its very first existence is shown.

*Ships cleared out to Africa from the Port of Liverpool.*

Year.	Ships.	Tons.	Year.	Ships.	Tons.
1709	1	30	1771	105	10,929
1730	15	1111	1772	100	10,150
1737	33	2756	1773	105	11,056
1744	34	2698	1774	92	9859
1751	53	5334	1775	81	9200
1752	58	5437	1776	57	7078
1753	72	7547	1777	31	4060
1754	71	5463	1778	26	3651
1755	41	4052	1779	11	1205
1756	60	5147	1780	32	4275
1757	47	5050	1781	43	5720
1758	51	5229	1782	47	6209
1759	58	5892	1783	85	12,294
1760	74	8178	1784	67	9568
1761	69	7309	1785	79	10,982
1762	61	6752	1786	92	13,971
1763	65	6650	1787	81	14,012
1764	74	7978	1788	73	13,394
1765	83	9382	1789	66	11,564
1766	65	6650	1790	91	17,917
1767	83	8345	1791	102	19,610
1768	81	8302	1792	132	22,402
1769	90	9852	1793	52	10,544
1770	96	9818			

The *Account of the Inland Navigation to and from Liverpool*, for the years 1786, 1787, 1788, printed in the Report concerning the African and West India trade, is too curious and valuable to be omitted, though we have not been able to complete it to the present time. It may, however, doubtless be concluded to have kept pace in increase with the other parts of the commercial system of this port and the country connected with it.

*An Account of the Inland Navigation to and from Liverpool for the Years 1786, 1787, and 1788.*

On the Lancashire end of the Leeds canal there are employed between Liverpool and Wigan eighty-nine boats, of thirty-five to forty tons burthen each; which brought to Liverpool in the years

					1786.	1787.	1788.
viz.	Coals,	—	—	Tons.	91,249	98,248	109,208
	Flags, Slates, and Millstones	—	—	D <sup>o</sup> .	3,944	2,561	3,613
	Merchandize	—	—	D <sup>o</sup> .	347	393	405
	Oak Timber	—	—	Feet.	17,403	17,986	13,589
Took from thence,	Merchandize	—	—	Tons.	3836	4610	4257
	Limestone and Bricks	—	—	D <sup>o</sup> .	2245	2064	1429
	Lime and Manure	—	—	D <sup>o</sup> .	10,213	11,129	12,224
	Pine Timber	—	—	Feet.	160,766	193,706	153,006
Between Liverpool and the river Douglas							
36 boats are employed, which brought							
Coals	—	—	—	Tons.	1,6724	22,592	20,706
And took back Limestone	—	—	—	D <sup>o</sup> .	4589	6164	5921
The tonnage of the vessels employed on the Sankey canal, the business of which is divided between Liverpool, Northwich, and Warrington, amounted to			—	Tons.	74,289	98,356	115,828

Between Liverpool on the river Mersey, and Northwich and Winford on the Weaver, 110 vessels are employed in carrying timber, salt, coals, and merchandize, to the amount of 164,000 tons annually.

Between Liverpool and Manchester there are employed, on the old navigation, twenty-five boats of fifty-five tons each, which make generally

rally three trips every two spring tides ; or, upon an average, allowing for delays from bad weathers, thirty-six trips each in a year.

There are also on the duke of Bridgewater's canal, which communicates with the Staffordshire canal, forty-two boats employed, of fifty tons each, which make on an average three trips to Liverpool every fourteen days : ten boats will be added to this part of the navigation in the summer.

*Privateers.*—Liverpool has in different wars distinguished itself by the spirit with which it has fitted out armed ships for the purpose of annoying the trade of the enemy. How far this is a useful spirit to a trading town, and in what degree the prizes made have exceeded or fallen short of the expences of the outfits, we shall not inquire. But it ought not to be omitted, as a memorable instance of the power and enterprize of a single British port, that soon after the commencement of hostilities with France in 1778, there sailed from the port of Liverpool, between the end of August 1778 and that of April 1779, 120 private ships of war, carrying 1986 guns, (mostly six and nine-pounders) and 8754 men, and of the burthen of 30,787 tons—a navy of itself, superior to that of all England in some of its most illustrious reigns ! The largest of these ships was a frigate of thirty nine-pounders ; that with the heaviest metal was one of sixteen eighteen-pounders. Some of the prizes taken by the Liverpool privateers were of very great value ; and their effect in cutting off the resources of the hostile powers was very considerable.

A foreign commerce of the vast magnitude above stated, must necessarily give employment to a number of *domestic trades*, some belonging

to shipping in general, and some dependent on the peculiar nature of the traffic of the port. On the whole, however, Liverpool is less of a manufacturing town than Bristol, nor does it supply so many articles for the use of the West India islands. It possesses, however, glass houses, salt works, copperas works, copper works, iron foundries, many houses for the refining of sugar, and a number of public breweries, both for home consumption and exportation. A stranger is struck with the number of windmills in and near the town, of which the greater part are devoted to the grinding of corn, but many to the grinding of colours and rasping dyer's wood. The builders' yards are large and well stocked with timber, and there are many considerable roperies. It has already been mentioned, that the watch movement and tool business has established its head-quarters in or near Liverpool. A stocking manufactory, employing a good number of hands, has likewise been set up in the town.

*Population.*—The progress of population in Liverpool cannot but have borne proportion to that of its commerce and of its size; though, with respect to the latter, it may be remarked, that the improvements in widening the streets at the center, and building large houses instead of small ones, must, as in London, have rendered that part of the town less populous, and thrown its superfluity upon the extremities. It cannot, however, be doubted that the whole number of houses in Liverpool has very greatly increased since the enumeration in 1773; and though we have not been able to obtain a regular account of the bills of mortality since that period, yet from a few of them, together with a pretty late return of houses, a tolerable idea may be formed of the latter progress and present state of its population.



In 1773 it appears that there were registered,

Christen. 1397 ; Burials, 1109 ; Marriages, 500.

Now, taking the christenings as the steadiest article, and comparing them with the number of inhabitants found that year by actual enumeration, which, allowing for the increase of the year and for omissions, we may state at 35,000 ; it will appear, that the proportion of registered christenings to that of existing inhabitants was nearly as one to twenty-five.

In 1780 there were,

Christ. 1709 ; Burials, 1594 ; Marriages, 607.

By the above rule of multiplying the christenings, the number of inhabitants in that year will turn out to be about 42,700.

In 1785 there were,

Christ. 2007 ; Burials, 1778 ; Marriages, 767.

By the same rule the inhabitants were about 50,170.

From March 25, 1787 to ditto 1788, there were,

Christ. 2267 ; Burials, 1773 ; Marriages, 804.

The inhabitants, by the above rule, were then 56,670.

From the tax-gatherers books, examined 29th of February, 1789, it appears that the rated houses for the preceding year were as follows :

Houses at £.5 per annum,	-	-	2053
Ditto at above £.5 and under £.10	-	-	2561
Ditto at £.10 and upwards,	-	-	2725
			<hr/>
			7339
Ditto untenanted and unfinished	-	-	351
			<hr/>
Total	-	-	7690

It is extremely difficult to know what allowance should be made for non-rated houses and excused, the proportion of these varying so greatly in different districts. It is, however, presumable, that in Liverpool the proportion would be much smaller than in many other towns, since the number of *manufacturing* poor in it, who are always the greatest defaulters in public payments, is but small, and from the rate of house rent, very few can be supposed to let under £.5. If one fourth be added to the number of inhabited houses on this account, the proportion of inhabitants to a house, as established by the enumeration of 1713, (viz. 54) will give at that period a population of 51,190. But this is a merely conjectural calculation, and probably too low. The increase since that year cannot but have been considerable. If it has borne proportion to the increase of the shipping, it will have exceeded one-fifth.

*The Tenures of Liverpool and its Neighbourhood.*—The township and manor of Liverpool formerly belonged to the family of Molyneux, now earls of Sefton, which, though an Irish title, is derived from the ancient family seat at Sefton, or Sephton, in this neighbourhood.

Till very lately the corporation of Liverpool were only lessees of the manor, under this family, for a long term of years; but about twenty years since they purchased the reversionary estate, and have thereby consolidated the fee in themselves.

But the corporation, although possessed of the royalty, are not the proprietors of all the lands in the township, the northern part of which adjoining to Kirkdale and Everton, and including about one half of the town as now built, is private property, either held in fee, or leased by private owners upon building leases. Of these owners the most considerable is Thomas Cross, Esq. of Shaw-Hill in this county, whose estate

com-

comprehends a large district on the north side of the town, which he grants out on building leases nearly on the same terms as the corporation.

The leases granted by the corporation are for three lives, and a term of twenty-one years after the death of the survivor ; under which lease the inhabitants of the town hesitate not to expend large sums of money in buildings, making little difference in their estimation between a corporation leasehold, and an estate in fee. This confidence of the public is founded on an idea that the corporation will, in case of the death of any of the lives, renew the lease by nominating others, although it contain no stipulation to that effect. They are, however, engaged to comply with this by the strongest of all ties, that of their own interest ; and from the fines paid for such renewals a principal part of the large income of the corporation arises. Their terms are, in general (though not without such exceptions as they may think expedient) for the insertion of one new life, one year's rent ; of two lives, three years rent ; of three lives, seven years rent. On these terms, the calculation in point of advantage is supposed to be favourable to the corporation ; but the practice of renewing leases is general, and the lessees would deem it a peculiar hardship if they were compelled to exhaust their term without the power of renewal.

Liverpool, on the south side, is bounded by the township of Toxteth-park, belonging to the earl of Sefton. From its vicinity to the town, and particularly to the new docks, such part of it as lies next to Liverpool has been thought convenient for building, and leases have been granted by the late earl, on terms supposed to be equally advantageous with those of the corporation. A new church called St. James's was some years since built in Toxteth park, near to the boundary be-

tween that township and Liverpool. The proposed streets are laid out with a proper attention to regularity and convenience. Several good houses have been erected, and there is no doubt but that as soon as the re-establishment of peace shall restore to the town of Liverpool its commerce, and its prosperity, the improvements in Toxteth park, if proper encouragement be given by the owner, will keep pace with those in other parts of the vicinity. The new town is intended to be called Harrington, in reference to the family of the present countess dowager of Seston, the daughter of the earl of Harrington; and the proposed streets take their names from the friends and relatives of the family.

The village of Everton is situated on an agreeable eminence about a mile north-east from the town of Liverpool, and commands an extensive prospect of the mouth of the river, opening into the estuary of Bootle bay, and of the Irish channel, as well as of the opposite coast of Chester, and the northern part of Wales. This village has of late years become a very favourite residence, and several excellent houses are built along the western declivity of the hill. About half way on the descent from Everton to Liverpool, is a district of the town called Richmond, forming a pleasant and respectable neighbourhood, and uniting in an eminent degree the conveniences of a town residence, with those of a country situation.—The annexed view of Liverpool was taken in the year 1793, from a station between Low-hill and Everton, the best spot from which the town can be viewed.

The townships or manors adjoining to Liverpool on the east, and extending from thence to a considerable distance, are principally held by the families of Gascoigne and Blackburne. These extensive possessions were in the earlier part of the present century acquired by the industry





or good fortune of Mr. Isaac Greene, an eminent attorney in this neighbourhood ; who, with the opportunity, united the prudence to avail himself of the improving state of the neighbourhood, and on terms which would now be thought scarcely adequate to the purchase of as many farms, acquired the lordships of Everton, West-derbey, Great Woolton, Little Woolton, and Childwall, to which he added that of Hale, in right of his wife, the daughter of Sir Gilbert Ireland. On the death of Mr. Greene, his possessions became the property of his daughters and co-heiresses, Mrs. Blackburne of Hale, and Mrs. Gascoigne of Childwall, by whom the manerial rights are now exercised, and the copyhold courts duly held, with all the formalities attending that extraordinary system of vassalage ; the copyholders possessing their estates at the will of the lord or lady, according to the custom of the manor, and performing suit and service in person.

*Public Property of the Town of Liverpool.*—The corporation of Liverpool is one of the most opulent in the kingdom. In the year 1793, when public credit was so much shaken throughout the kingdom, the merchants of this town, on account of the complicated nature of their concerns, laboured under peculiar difficulties, which occasioned numerous failures, and threatened the most alarming consequences. A scheme was at that time formed by some of the leading members of the corporation, to employ the public credit in aid of that of private persons, by procuring an act of parliament to enable the corporation to issue negotiable bills, for which their estates were to be security. It was consequently necessary to lay before parliament an exact account of the state of their affairs, the summary of which is contained in the following schedule :

*General Account and Valuation of the Estate and Revenue belonging to the Corporation of Liverpool, taken the 21st of March, 1793.*

Income for 1792.				£.	s.	d.
Fines received for renewal of leases,	-	-	-	2270	14	4
Ground rents received for 1792,	-	-	-	1027	1	10
Rents for buildings in possession, let to tenants at will,				5166	17	6
Rents for land in possession, let to ditto,	-	-		1349	1	0
Amount of town's duties,	-	-	-	12,180	7	0
Graving docks,	-	.	-	1701	16	5
Anchorage,	-	-	-	211	15	3
Small tolls called ingates and outgates	-	-	-	321	9	7
Weighing machine,	-	-	-	143	4	0
Rents of seats in St. George's church,	-	-		268	11	0
Arrears of interest from the parish of Liverpool,	-			360	0	0
				<u>25,000 17 11</u>		

Interest and Annuities paid in 1792.

Annual interest upon the bond debts, principally at						
4½ per cent. per annum,	-	-	-	-	15,835	14 3
Annuities upon bond,	-	-	-	-	2109	12 10
					<u>17,945</u>	<u>7 1</u>
Balance in favour of the corporation,	-	-			9055	10 10
Valuation of the above articles, adding that of land						
not built on, and the strand of the river,					1,044,776	0 0
Valuation of the debt,	-	-	-	-	367,816	12 0
Balance in favour of the corporation,	-	-			676,959	8 0

Exclusive



Exclusive of a balance due from the trustees of the docks, and of the reversionary interest of certain lots of ground laid out for building, both together estimated at	-	-	-	-	-	60,000	0	0
Exclusive also of public buildings, and ground appropriated to public purposes, valued at	-	-	-	-	-	85,000	0	0

*State of Agriculture about Liverpool, and Account of the Improvement of Chat and Trafford Moss.*—Of the state of agriculture in the neighbourhood of Liverpool a short account may suffice, the lands being chiefly occupied in small pasture farms, producing butter and milk for the immediate use of the town. Little or no cheese is made in the neighbourhood, a supply of which is readily obtained from the adjacent county of Chester. The farm of Mr. Wakefield, in Smetham-lane, within a mile of Liverpool, is, however, deserving of notice, though only an occasional employment for its owner, who carries on an extensive sugar refinery in Liverpool. His stock generally consists of about 100 cows, in the choice of which he prefers the Holderness breed; besides which he fats every year a considerable number of cattle for the market. The food which he raises for his cattle is chiefly turneps and potatoes, the latter of which he boils, and has found them by experience to be in this state a cheap and excellent food for his horses. In boiling his potatoes he uses a large wooden vessel, holding about ten bushels, which being closed with a lid or cover, and perforated at the bottom, is set over a boiler or iron pot, the steam of which, rising through the potatoes, effectually answers the purpose of boiling by immersion. For a few years past he has tried the succory or wild endive (*Cichorium Intybus*) which he finds to be very

productive, throwing up a strong vegetation which is consumed by his cattle with great eagerness, though Dr. Withering asserts that cows and horses refuse it,\* and Mr. Curtis considers it as a noxious weed.† A few years since Mr. Wakefield discovered a method of applying steam to the purposes of vegetation, particularly to the growing of grapes, pines, melons, and other hot-house productions, which is now very generally adopted in the neighbourhood, particularly at Knowsley, the seat of the earl of Derby, where, under the directions of Mr. Butler, a skilful gardener, it has had great success. This discovery is likely soon to be made public with the consent and under the patronage of the inventor, whose attention is at present engaged by an undertaking in the neighbourhood of Manchester, which, as it is likely to be of public utility, deserves particular notice.

This undertaking is the drainage and improvement of the two large tracts of waste land lying in the parish of Eccles, called Chat Moss and Trafford Moss, of which some account has before been given. The former of these is very conspicuous from the road between Warrington and Manchester. Its dark surface rises above the adjoining lands, and extends along the road five or six miles, approaching to it at times within the distance of less than 100 yards. Trafford Moss lies on the south side of the river Irwell, and adjoins to the park of John Trafford, of Trafford, Esq. the proprietor both of that and of much the greater part of Chat Moss.

The very populous country in the midst of which these waste lands are situated, their elevation above the bed of the river Irwell, the oppor-

\* *Botanical Arrangement*, Vol. II. P. 863, 2d Edit.

† *Flora Londinensis*.

tunity of improvement by materials either found on the spot, or at a small distance, and the convenience of carriage by the duke of Bridgewater's canal from Worfeley to Manchester, which divides Trafford Mofs into two unequal parts, and shoots a considerable way into Chat Mofs, seems to render the improvement of these lands particularly eligible; and accordingly, in the year 1792, Mr. Wakefield agreed to undertake it upon a lease for a long term of years. In the session of 1793 an act of parliament was obtained, enabling the proprietor to complete such agreement.

Mr. Wakefield having associated in his undertaking Mr. Roscoe of Liverpool, the drainage of Trafford Mofs was begun by them in the same year, and the principal part of it is now intersected by drains at six yards distance from each other. These drains are cut to the depth of about three feet, and are eighteen inches wide. At the bottom a narrow or spit drain is formed, about six inches wide and eighteen inches deep, leaving a shoulder at the bottom of the wide drain to support the sod or turf with which the narrow or spit drain is covered. No material is used but the native sod. These drains, it must be observed, ought not to be cut at one operation, as in such case the sides will give way. They must be allowed time to harden, and drain off the water at every foot, or oftener, according to the nature and consistence of the Mofs. This precaution is of the utmost importance. When the sides of the drain are become sufficiently hard, a sod is placed over the spit drain, the wide drain is covered up, and the surface levelled for cultivation. These small drains open into larger ones, at 100 yards distance from each other, which also form the boundaries or fences of the intended fields, and by which the water is carried off to the extremity of the mofs, where it finds an uninterrupted course to the Irwell.

The

The next step to be taken is to improve the surface, which is done by introducing some extraneous substance, which being mingled with the moss, may assist its decomposition, (the natural process of which, even when exposed to the air, is very slow) and may render it fit for the purposes of husbandry : calcareous substances of all kinds, and even sand, are also highly serviceable. A fine bed of marl which lies about four feet under the surface at one end of Trafford Moss, affords an excellent article for its improvement. The difficulty attending the conveying the marl over the moss, which is yet too soft and spongy to bear a cart and horses, is obviated by the use of moveable cast iron roads, the direction of which is daily changed as the work proceeds, and over which the marl is conveyed in four-wheeled waggons, containing about six hundred weight each. One horse with great ease takes six of these waggons ; by these means the weight of the marl, bearing on twenty-four wheels, is discharged at so many points, that the iron road is much lighter, and consequently less expensive, and more moveable than it would otherwise be. This road is cast in bars of six feet long, which join together, and rest on wooden sleepers or blocks ; every bar weighs about thirty pounds.

In the year 1794, the undertakers made an experiment by planting with potatoes about ten acres of the native moss, after they had drained it, but before any marl had been introduced, the land being only manured with the common town soil of Manchester. Although the season was unfavourable, the vegetation was strong, and the crop equal to any in the neighbourhood. It is expected that in the present year upwards of 100 acres of Trafford Moss will be in tillage.

The potatoes produced on Mofs lands are said to be more free from blemish than any other, and are always preferred for planting again to those grown on other soils.

The operations on Chat Mofs are, we understand, intended to be begun immediately.

Before we entirely quit this town and county, we shall remark, that the assessment of men for the service of the navy laid by a late act of parliament upon the several counties in the kingdom, in proportion to the taxed houses in each, places Lancashire higher than any one except Yorkshire; the numbers being, *Yorkshire* 1064, *Lancashire* 589, while that for *Middlesex* and *London* together is only 552, and no other approaches near it.

Also, by another act for obliging every sea-port to contribute a certain number of men for the navy, which is assessed according to the tonnage of ships registered in each port, Liverpool stands second; the numbers for some of the principal ports in England being as follows:

London, 5725	Hull, 731	Bristol, 666
Liverpool, 1711	Whitehaven, 700	Whitby, 573
Newcastle, 1240	Sunderland, 669.	Yarmouth, 506

The whole number to be raised by the ports of England is 17,948.

The second view of Liverpool here annexed is copied from a picture of Mr. Peters, in the possession of Nicholas Ashton, Esq. and was taken from the Cheshire shore opposite the town.

## II.—CHESHIRE.

## C H E S T E R.

ON a rocky eminence above the river Dee, and half encircled by a sweep of that river, stands the ancient city of Chester. Whatever be the truth concerning its remoter antiquity, it was certainly made a military station by the Romans, for which it was well adapted, as commanding the head of the frith or estuary of the Dee, which then flowed up in a broad channel to its walls, overspreading all the low grounds between Wirral and Flintshire. It was the quarters of the twentieth Roman legion, whence the Britons gave it the names of *Caer Legion*, *Caer Leon Vawr*, *Caer Leon ar Dufyr Dwy*. The Roman geographers named it *Deunana* and *Deva* from the river; and the later historians, *Cestria*, from *castrum*, a camp or military station. Its Roman origin has farther been proved by the discovery at various periods of remains of antiquity belonging to that nation, such as altars, statues, coins, and hypocausts, of which last, one is at this day to be seen at the Feathers' inn, consisting of a number of low pillars, supporting perforated tiles for the passage of the warm vapour. The Saxons called this place *Legancester* and *Legecester*. It is styled *West Chester* from its relative situation, to distinguish it from many other towns which have the appellation of *Chester* with some addition.

With







With respect to its history, we shall briefly observe, that after the final departure of the Romans from this island in the fifth century, it fell under the dominion of the British princes, from whom it was wrested, first, by Ethelfrid, who gained the battle of Chester against the king of Powis in 607, and afterwards was finally annexed to the Saxon crown by Egbert. It was seized and almost ruined by the Danes in the ninth century, and restored by Ethelfleda, daughter of the great Alfred. King Edgar made a league here in 973 with six petty kings. After the Norman conquest, the earldom of Chester, with almost regal powers, was conferred on Hugh Lupus, who kept his court at Chester, restored its walls, and built its castle. Before this time it was a guild mercatory, and was noted as a port of considerable commerce. In the reign of Edward the Confessor, there were in it 431 taxable houses, besides fifty-six that belonged to the bishop; but this number was greatly reduced before Hugh Lupus took possession of his earldom. In after reigns it was a place of rendezvous for troops in all expeditions against Wales, and frequently suffered in the contests between the two nations. It was at Chester that the Welch made their final acknowledgement to Edward of Caernarvon, of the sovereignty of England, in 1300. Several of our kings visited it at different periods, and conferred favours upon it, which were returned by loyal attachment. Its first royal charter was given by Henry III. ; but that which bestowed its most valuable privileges was granted by Henry VII. In the civil wars of Charles I. it adhered with great fidelity to the royal cause, and stood a long siege in 1645-6, not surrendering to the Parliament till all hope of relief had long been cut off by the defeat of Sir Marmaduke Langdale at Rowton-heath. In the rebellion of 1745 it was put into a state of defence and strongly garrisoned ; but since that period its importance as a military station has happily ceased.

Chester principally consists of four streets running from a centre towards the four points of the compass, and each terminated by a gate ; thus preserving the original form of a Roman camp. These have been excavated in the rocky soil, which has been the cause of a very singular construction of the houses in them. On the level of the street are low shops or warehouses ; above them, a gallery, running from house to house, and street to street, and affording a covered walk for foot-passengers. Over it are the higher stories of the houses. The gallery, called here a *row*, is on a level with the kitchens and yards of the houses, though elevated a flight of steps above the street. The appearance of the whole is as if the first stories to the front of all the houses in a street were laid open, and made to communicate with each other, pillars only being left for the support of the superstructure. Thus the foot-passengers seem to be walking along the fronts of the houses up one pair of stairs. In these *rows* are many shops ; and they give a sheltered walk in all weathers, though disagreeably close and often dirty, with the necessity of ascending and descending wherever a lane crosses the street. This mode of structure is on many accounts so inconvenient, that it is only kept up in the old streets near the centre of the city. The four streets are for the most part of a good breadth, and straight. There are various communicating lanes or narrow streets, and large suburbs. Upon the whole, the building of the city is rather venerable and singular than elegant, though within the last twenty years a considerable number of houses in the modern style have been erected in new situations.

Of the public edifices, few are distinguished for splendour or beauty. The cathedral is a large, irregular, and heavy pile, become ragged through the decay of its mouldering stone. It is on the site of an Abbey

founded by a Mercian king in favour of his daughter Werburgh, to whom, afterwards fainted, the cathedral is dedicated. One of its transepts is parted off and used as a parish church. The greater part of the present edifice was erected in the reigns of Henry VII. and VIII. The chapter-house with its vestibule is a more ancient and a truly beautiful structure. St. John's church, which was once collegiate, has been a large and magnificent pile of Saxon architecture, but a great part of it has suffered demolition. The other churches offer nothing extraordinary. The bishop's palace is a neat, plain structure, forming one side of the Abbey Court, two others of which consist of handsome, modern-built houses.

The castle, situated above the river at the south end of the town, still affords some appearance of a fortress, though much dilapidated. It consists of an upper and lower ward, the entrance to each protected by gates and round towers. Within the castle are the county goal, and the courts of justice. The latter have lately been taken down, and a new goal, shire-hall, &c. are building upon a much-approved and extensive plan. The castle has a governor, lieutenant-governor, and constable, and is garrisoned by two companies of invalids.

The walls are one of the most pleasing singularities of Chester, being the only ones in the kingdom, those of Carlisle excepted, which are kept up entire. Their circuit is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile and 101 yards, and they afford a walk on the top for two persons abreast, without the necessity of descending at the gates over which the walk is carried. It is indeed solely for the purpose of pleasure and recreation, and not of defence, that they are now maintained: and the extent and variety of prospect enjoyed from them fully justify the inhabitants in their attention to pre-

serve them in a neat and commodious state. The Welch mountains, the Cheshire hills of Broxton, and the insulated rock of Beeston crowned with its castle, the rich flat interposed, and the perpetually changing views of the river, are striking objects in this favourite tour. Three of the arches which afford entrance to the city through the walls are spacious and elegant modern structures. A small duty paid on Irish linen imported is the principal source of revenue for supporting the walls. A considerable and populous part of the city, particularly on the eastern side, is without their circuit.

With respect to the character and consequence of Chester as a town, it has long maintained nearly the same station it at present occupies. It is principally distinguished as a sort of provincial metropolis, not only to its own county, but to the neighbouring counties of North Wales; many of the gentry of which, as well as other persons disengaged from business, from various parts, chuse it as an agreeable residence, offering the pleasures of cultivated society on easy terms, with the advantage of polite education to their families. Its markets are well supplied with all articles both of necessity and luxury, and at a lower rate than in the trading and manufacturing towns of the neighbourhood. Very good fruit and vegetables of all kinds are grown in the spacious gardens underneath and within the walls. The city is supplied with water chiefly from the river by means of water-works at the bridge which raise the water into a reservoir, whence pipes are laid into the houses.

The commercial character of Chester is rather a secondary consideration, nor have the attempts to make it participate in the benefits which its neighbours have received from the surprising increase of trade and manufactures been attended with much success. It has, however, long been  
known

known as the great mart for Irish linens, which are brought over at its two noted fairs commencing on July 5th and October 10th, and sold to a great amount to purchasers from various parts of the kingdom. The quantity is reckoned at a million of yards each fair. For the better accommodation of the linen merchants, a new hall was built in the year 1778, which is a handsome square brick building, containing 111 shops, and enclosing a spacious area. At these fairs are sold large quantities of other commodities, as Yorkshire cloths, Welch flannels, cheese, horses, cattle, &c. but the resort to them is less than formerly, as is the case with all other fairs.

The only manufacture of consequence in Chester is that of gloves, which is carried on to some extent. There are also a small manufactory of tobacco pipes, an iron foundry, snuff mills, ship builder's yards, and other concerns, which afford some employment; but the poor in general are occupied only in the common trades and labours belonging to a town inhabited by families of opulence.

Chester, as has already been noted, is an ancient port; but the great breadth of the estuary of the Dee, and the comparative smallness of the body of water flowing through it, rendered it liable to be choaked up with sand thrown in by the tide. This gradually took place to such a degree in the last century, that in the year 1674, vessels of twenty tons could scarcely reach the town, and ships of burthen were obliged to lie under Newton, ten miles lower down, which was the origin of that assemblage of houses on the adjacent shore, called *Park-gate*, still the station of the Irish packets. In that year, a plan was formed by Mr. Andrew Yarranton to make a new channel for the river, and at the same time to recover a large tract of land from the sea by embankment. It was

was not, however, till the middle of the present century, that the project was put into execution. A company was formed for the purpose, and different powers were granted by various acts of parliament ; but the first operations were so expensive, that numbers of subscribers were obliged to sell out at above 90 per cent. loss. At length, the shares falling into the hands of fewer and wealthier persons, the plan was brought to a considerable degree of utility, and a fine canal has been made, protected by vast banks, in which the river is confined for the space of ten miles, with such a depth of water as to allow vessels of 350 tons burthen to come up to the quays at spring tides. This canal opens from the sea a little above Flint. A small canal from Sir John Glynne's collieries at Aston, near Harwarden, joins the other about two miles below Chester. At the same time, cross embankments have been made, which have gained much land from the ; sea and flourishing farms are now seen where formerly were nothing but bare sands, covered each tide by the water. Two ferries across the new canal make a communication with the opposite county of Wales. The medium height of spring tides at the quays is fifteen feet ; the greatest, twenty-one feet. The river just above the bridge is crossed by a stone causeway, which causes a fall of thirteen feet, and cuts off constant communication by vessels between the upper part of the river and the lower. There are, however, six or eight tides which flow over the causeway, and some reach upwards of twenty miles up the country, which allows a navigation for small barges as far as Bangor. The causeway serves as a dam for the purpose of turning mills. The snuff mills are situated directly upon it, and the town corn mills, which are reckoned extremely complete in their construction, close to the bridge, one arch of which conveys a stream for their use.

The maritime business of Chester is of no great extent. It chiefly consists of the coasting and Irish trades, with a small portion of trade to foreign parts. The commodities imported are, groceries from London; linnen cloth, wool, hides, tallow, feathers, butter, provisions, and other articles from Ireland; timber, deals, hemp, flax, iron, and tallow from the Baltic; kid and lamb-skins from Leghorn; fruit, oil, barilla, and cork, from Spain and Portugal, and a large quantity of wine from the latter, which is the principal article of foreign import. Its exports are coal, lead, lead ore, calamine, copper plates, cast iron, and large quantities of cheese; and it is a sort of magazine for a variety of goods, raw and manufactured, sent to Ireland. From the large cheese warehouse in the river, vessels go at stated periods with loads for London. The number of ships belonging to this port, notwithstanding the above enumeration of commercial objects, is very small; yet the limits of the port extend on the Cheshire side of the Dee as far as the end of Wirral, and on the Flintshire side to the mouth of the river Clwyd. The business of ship-building is carried on here continually, and with advantage, many vessels from 100 to 500 tons being built yearly. These are reckoned to be superior in point of strength and beauty to those built at any other port in the kingdom. The materials are entirely British oak.

The canal from Namptwich, which was expected to add much to the trade of this city, but the miserable failure of which has been already mentioned, (see page 127) enters the river below the quay, after passing under the north side of the walls. The new Ellesmere canal is intended to pass on the west side of the city, and after communicating with the Dee, to proceed to join the Mersey. It is hoped this may open new sources of trade which may prove advantageous to this ancient

cient port. That part of it which forms the communication between the Dee and Mersey is already finished.

The population of Chester and its suburbs was found, on an enumeration in 1774, to be as follows:—families, 3428; male inhabitants, 6697; female do. 8016; total, 14,713; and by calculations drawn from the bills of mortality, its proportional healthiness appeared to be greater than that of almost any other large town to which it was compared. But this was doubtless in part owing to the much less proportion of the lowest class of poor than that in manufacturing towns, among whom the great principles of increase and decrease are to be looked for. In Chester the *births* are equally as disproportionate as the *deaths* to the existing number.

The government of this city is vested in a corporation, consisting of a mayor, recorder, two sheriffs, twenty-four aldermen, and forty common councilmen, two of whom are leave-lookers, whose office it is to inform of all persons exercising trades within the city without being freemen. The two senior officers are murgers, or receivers of the murage duties for maintaining the walls. Two are treasurers, who are usually next in succession to the mayor. There are likewise a sword and mace bearer, and the other usual inferior officers.

The right of election into the corporation was by a charter of king Henry VII. confirmed by queen Elizabeth, declared to be in the citizen-freemen; but this right being supposed to be abrogated by a new charter in the reign of Charles II. the corporation assumed the exclusive privilege of electing into their own body. About fifteen years ago, Mr. John Eddowes, a very respectable citizen, supported by other citizen-freemen,



freemen, instituted a suit in the court of King's-bench against an alderman and common-councilman thus elected; whose cause being defended by their brethren, came to a hearing, and was decided in favour of the corporation: but Mr. Eddowes removing the cause by appeal to the House of Lords, after a long and solemn hearing, the former verdict was reversed, and a decree made, that the old charter of Henry VII. was the only legal one. Both sides were adjudged to pay their costs, which to Mr. Eddowes and his friends amounted to £.300; and the corporation continued to elect as before.

The law courts of the city are the courts of Crown-mote and Port-mote, and the Sessions, all held in the Exchange. In the Port-mote the mayor, assisted by the recorder, holds pleas to any amount. He also holds the sessions of peace, in which criminals are tried, with the power of passing sentence of death. There is another court, held at the *Pentice*, an ancient building at the centre of the city, in which the sheriffs are judges; this is for civil causes only. The city goal is in the North-gate. In the Exchange, which is a large, handsome pile of building supported on columns, the body corporate hold their assemblies for public business, and the elections of mayors and other officers. Here likewise the mayors give their entertainments, and the citizens have their dancing assemblies.

The city returns two members to parliament, chosen by the freemen at large, in number about 1000. The sheriff is returning officer; the chief interest is in the Grosvenor family.

The limits of the city liberties extend to a circumference of about eight miles. A fine meadow lying between the walls and the river,

called the *Rood-eye*, is used as a common pasture for the citizens, and also for a race-ground, for which purpose it is admirably adapted, lying like an amphitheatre immediately beneath the walls, and also commanded by the high banks on the opposite side of the river.

Chester contains, besides the cathedral, the following churches :

St. Oswald, (in the cathedral)	St. Michael,
St. John Baptist,	St. Mary,
St. Peter, .	St. Olave,
Trinity,	St. Martin.
St. Bridget,	

It has six places of worship for dissenters, viz. one Presbyterian, two Independent, one Quaker, one Methodist, and one Catholic.

Of the charitable institutions of Chester, the Blue-coat Hospital, situated near the North-gate, deserves particular mention. It was founded by bishop Stratford in 1706 ; and was devoted to the complete maintenance of thirty-five boys for four years, at the expiration of which they were put out apprentices : but in the year 1781, when the income of the hospital received an augmentation, it was proposed, instead of adding to the number of those educated in the house, to take sixty more as out-scholars, to be taught reading, writing, and some arithmetic. This proposal was accomplished in 1783, and was attended with such good effects, that the number was afterwards doubled. These 120 are taught by two masters ; and the whole annual expence of each boy in teaching, books, and a green cap, amounts to no more than 14s. They are received at nine years of age, and when they are of two years standing, fifteen of the best are annually elected in-

in-scholars for two years; and those not elected remain out-scholars two years more. By this plan, the benefits of a good education are extended to one-third of all the boys in Chester. There is likewise a blue-school for a smaller number of girls, both out and in-scholars, which is supported by ladies.

Another useful charity is one for thirty decayed freemen of sixty years of age and upwards, who receive £.4 yearly, and a gown every third year. There are likewise various alms-houses in the city.

The Infirmary, erected in 1761, and supported by subscriptions from the town and county and North Wales, is a very well-conducted institution of the kind. Its utility has lately been increased by allowing the admission of fever-patients to a ward set apart for them, and carefully prevented from communicating infection to the rest of the house.

In the year 1778 a charitable institution of a kind before unknown in the kingdom was set on foot in Chester. Its objects were, to prevent the Natural Small-pox in Chester, and to promote General Inoculation at stated periods. A set of rules were drawn up to be observed whenever the small-pox should break out, both by the families where it appeared, and by the neighbours, and rewards were annexed to the observance of them. Subscriptions were liberally raised for the purposes of this society, and in a course of four or five years, it was found by various trials that the rules were sufficient to stop the contagion of the small-pox when faithfully observed: but the obstinacy and supineness of the people, and their rejection of the offer of free inoculation, caused the scheme at length to be given up. The attempt, however,

has given birth to two very interesting publications of Dr. Haygarth, which may prove the foundation of more extensive future plans to extirpate this fatal disease. They are entitled, *An Inquiry how to prevent the Small-pox* ; and *A Sketch of a Plan to exterminate the Small-pox from Great Britain, &c.*

### W R E X H A M.

FROM Chester we shall make a small excursion out of the county, to a town much connected with it in trade, and at a short distance from the Cheshire border ; *Wrexham*, in the county of Denbigh. This is the largest town in North Wales, and its parish the most populous. Its ancient name of *Wrightesham* shews it to have been of Saxon origin ; and its language and appearance have always been more those of an English than a Welch town. Mr. Pennant has been able to trace its existence no farther back than the time of the last earl Warren, who had a grant of it. Leland mentions it as a place where there were some merchants and good buckler-makers.

The church of Wrexham is popularly called one of the wonders of North Wales. It was erected in the reign of Henry VII., and is a magnificent and highly ornamented pile of building. The inside of the church is very spacious, and consists of a nave, two aisles, and a chancel. Above the pillars are many grotesque carvings in ridicule of monks and nuns, and over the arches of the nave are many of the arms of the old British and Saxon princes. There are various monuments in  
the

the church, of which the most striking is a modern one in memory of Mrs. Mary Middleton, daughter of Sir Richard Middleton of Chirk-castle, representing her as bursting from the tomb at the sound of the last trumpet. There is also an elegant monument by Roubillac, of the Rev. Mr. Thomas Middleton and his wife, representing their faces on a medallion in profile, with a delicate curtain hanging on one side. The outside of the church has a great variety of gross and ludicrous sculpture. The steeple is a fine tower, richly ornamented on three sides with rows of saints placed in gothic niches. Among them is St. Giles, the patron of the church, with the hind, by which, according to the legend, he was miraculously fed in the desert. At each corner of the steeple is a light turret with a winding staircase, twenty-four feet high. The whole height of the steeple is 135 feet. The church is a vicarage, formerly an impropriation belonging to the abbey of Valle Crucis, but since restored to the see of St. Asaph. It has two chapels under it; *Minera*, or *Mwyn glawdd*, (*Mine upon the ditch*, that of Offa running by it) in the mountainous part of the parish; and *Berfe* or *Bersham*, a recent foundation. Wrexham has a free-school, endowed with £.10 a year, paid by the mayor of Chester, being the bequest of Valentine Broughton, alderman of that city.

Wrexham has weekly markets on Monday and Thursday; the last, the principal, which is well supplied with provisions of all kinds, brought in by the neighbouring farmers. About thirty-eight years since the prices were as low, probably, as in any part of the kingdom. A fat stubble goose alive might be bought for 1s.; beef at 1½d. per pound; mutton in proportion; and fresh butter at 3½d. per pound. This last article, however, rose in seven years from that time to double the price, which

which was owing to its being carried to the markets of Chester and Liverpool, and to the increased consumption in consequence of the prevalence of tea-drinking. The prices in 1795 are little different from those of other country towns; mutton 5*d.* per pound, beef 4*d.*, butter 11*d.* The wages of day-labourers are 6*s.* in winter, and 7*s.* in summer, having only been increased 1*s.* during the last thirty years, notwithstanding the vast rise of provisions, and a proportional advance in house rent and the price of coals.

The people of Wrexham mostly make their own bread, which is composed of wheat, barley, and a little rye: this mixture, baked in large loaves, makes excellent brown bread. It is fermented by a leaven consisting of a piece of the former dough turned four.

Wrexham enjoys a good deal of the shop-keeping trade into Wales; but its great importance in a commercial view arises from its noted annual fair in the month of March, which lasts nine days; the three last, however, being chiefly employed in packing up the goods. This fair is frequented from almost all parts of the kingdom, and purchasers flock to it, from North Wales in particular, in such crowds, that the town is filled to a degree scarcely to be conceived by any one who has not seen it. The commodities brought by the Welch are chiefly flannels, linen, linsley-woolsey, and horses and cattle in great abundance. Traders from other parts bring Irish linen, Yorkshire and other woollen cloths, Manchester goods, Birmingham manufactures of all kinds, and ribands, for which last there is a great demand among the country people for fairings and rural finery. There are two squares or areas, the old and the new, for the accommodation of those who have goods to sell

in their little shops or booths. Here is also a convenient town-hall, where the assizes are held. The centre street, where the market is kept, is of considerable length, and proportionably wide ; an uncommon circumstance for an ancient town.

Two miles from Wrexham is *Bersham* iron-furnace, belonging to Messrs. John and William Wilkinson. This concern was carried on about thirty-four years ago by Mr. Wilkinson, sen. in company with one son and some Liverpool gentlemen ; but it proved unsuccessful, partly in consequence of the failure of an expensive scheme to convey a blast by bellows from a considerable distance, to the works, by means of tubes under ground. It afterwards fell under the sole management of Mr. John Wilkinson, who, by means of very ingenious mechanism brought it to succeed in a wonderful manner, so that the works may be reckoned among the first of the kind in the kingdom. Besides the smelting furnaces, there are now several air furnaces for re-melting the pig iron, and casting it into various articles ; such as cylinders for fire engines, water-pipes, boilers, pots and pans of all sizes, box and flat irons, and cannon and ball of all dimensions. The cannon are now cast solid, and bored like a wooden pipe, according to a very capital modern improvement. The small stream here turns machinery for the boring of cannon, the grinding of flat and box irons, &c. There are also forges for malleable iron, and wire works ; and likewise a newly-erected brass foundry. All these works employ a great number of hands in various departments. At a short distance, lead ore is got in considerable quantities, and smelted upon the spot ; and Messrs. Wilkinsons have a work for the casting of lead pipes of various sizes, and drawing them out to any lengths. Iron-stone and coal are also plentiful in this neighbourhood.

A number of waggons are constantly employed in carrying goods between Bersham furnace and Chester, which being fourteen miles land carriage, is attended with a great expence. But this inconvenience will be removed by means of the Ellesmere canal, which is to pass by these works ; and a cut from it, called Brumbo-branch, will go to a new and large iron foundry now erecting by Mr. John Wilkinson, who has also great iron works in Shropshire. This canal will be of the greatest service to this part of the country, which yields the fine blue slate, limestone of the whitest kind and strongest quality, and excellent coals in large blocks, all at present carried in summer to the distance of twenty or thirty miles by land-carriage at a great expence.

The farms in the neighbourhood of Wrexham are in general of a moderate size, though there are some very large dairy ones, capable of keeping cows sufficient to make a large cheese every day, of equal goodness with the Cheshire, and sold as such. Many small farmers and cottagers who keep teams for drawing coal-carts or other work, have the practice of collecting the sprouts or soft top branches of young gorse or furze, which they chop small on a block by means of a mallet having a cross sharp knife on its face ; this they give as fodder to their horses, either alone, or mixed with a small quantity of oats. It is found to keep them in good heart, and give them a sleek coat ; and the practice deserves to be better known than it is in other parts. Most of the horses employed in winding up the coal from the pits are also fed in this manner. The greater part of the parish of Wrexham is either flat, or composed of gentle risings, affording many very fertile and pleasant situations, inhabited by an uncommon number of gentry distinguished for their hospitable mode of living. The beauties of *Ertbig*, the seat of Philip Yorke, Esq. at a small distance from Wrexham, are well



well known to the visitors of this romantic tract of country. The house is situated upon a delightful eminence, commanding a most pleasing view, and the lands are bounded by two little vales, watered by a pretty stream, and bordered by hanging woods.

A great dike or fofs, called *Wat's Dike*, and vulgarly the *Devil's Ditch*, runs through the parish, and by Erthig. It is a deep, wide ditch, enclosed between two high banks made of the earth thrown out, and which are now in many parts covered with trees of the largest growth. This work accompanies at irregular distances the better known entrenchment called *Offa's Dike*.

The road from Wrexham to Chester, 11½ miles, is a very fine one. It passes by the village of *Gresford*, distinguished by a very handsome church, built in the same reign with that of Wrexham, and possessing a fine ring of twelve bells, reckoned one of the wonders of Wales. Beneath the church is a most beautiful little valley, affording a landscape perfect in its kind—a model of rural elegance and retirement. Near this place is the beautiful cottage of Mrs. Warrington, and the house lately built by Mr. James Wyatt, for John Parry, Esq.

The following list of gentlemens' seats at the distance of from one to twelve miles from Wrexham, will give an idea of the beauties of this part of the country.

Lord Dacre,	-	-	-	-	-	Plas Tneg.
Lord Kenyon,	-	-	-	-	-	Gredington.
Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart.	-	-	-	-	-	Wynnstay.
Sir Foster Cunliffe, Bart.	-	-	-	-	-	Acton Park.

Philip Yorke, Esq.	-	-	-	Erthig.
William Lloyd, Esq.	-	-	-	Plas Power.
Sir Thomas Hanmer, Bart.	-	-	-	Bettisfield Park.
Ll. G. Wardle,	-	-	-	Hartfheath.
John Humberston, Esq.	-	-	-	Grewfild Park.
John Parry, Esq.	-	-	-	Gresford Lodge.
Peter Whitehall Davics, Esq.	-	-	-	Broughton.
Trevor Lloyd, Esq.	-	-	-	Trevor.
William Owen, Esq.	-	-	-	Plas Kynaston.
Rev. Thomas Youde,	-	-	-	Plas Madoc.
Richard Puleston, Esq.	-	-	-	Emrall.
Philip Lloyd Fletcher, Esq.	-	-	-	Gwernhaylid.
———— Price, Esq. (minor)	-	-	-	Bryn y pys.
Roger Kenyon, Esq.	-	-	-	Cefn.
———— Wilson, Esq.	-	-	-	Trevallyn.
Richard Myddleton, Esq.	-	-	-	Chirk Castle.
———— Lloyd, Esq.	-	-	-	Penyllan.
———— Meredith, Esq.	-	-	-	Pentre bwchan.
Richard Hill Waring, Esq.	-	-	-	Leefwood.
Lady Glynne,	-	-	-	Hawarden Castle.
Rev. Dr. Puleston,	-	-	-	Pickhill.
Lord Dungannon,	-	-	-	Bryn kynalt.
Rev. J. W. Eyton,	-	-	-	Leefwood.
Thomas Apperley, Esq.	-	-	-	Plas Grwnyo.
David Pennant, Esq.	-	-	-	Rosc Hill.
Thomas Brown, Esq.	-	-	-	Marchwiell.
———— Jones, Esq.	-	-	-	Llwynon.
Frederick Philips, Esq.	-	-	-	Rhyddyn.
Edward Eyton, Esq.	-	-	-	Eyton.

## BROXTON HUNDRED.

THIS hundred, which was called at the time of the Conquest *Du-*  
*destan* hundred, stretches on the eastern bank of the Dee to the  
 south of Chester, as far the south-western corner of the county.

About two miles from Chester, on the Frodsham road, is *Hoole-beath*,  
 noted for having been an asylum established by Hugh Lupus, and par-  
 ticularly allotted to fugitives from Wales.

About the same distance from Chester, on the London road, is the plea-  
 sing village of *Christleton*, the manor of which was held before the  
 Conquest by earl Edwin, and after that period was bestowed by Hugh  
 Lupus on Robert Fitzhugh, one of his followers.

The village of *Eccleston* is pleasantly situated on the Dee, command-  
 ing a fine view of the towers and spires of Chester, rising above the  
 wooded banks. It was held after the Conquest by a Venables : it is  
 now the property of the Grosvenors.

At a small distance from Chester is *Eaton*, a hamlet on the Dee, in  
 which is situated the family seat of the *Grosvenors*. The house is of  
 brick, built about the latter end of the last century. The ancient fa-  
 mily of Grosvenors came in with the Conquest, and took their name  
 from the office of chief huntsman, which they bore in the Norman  
 court. Their first settlement in this county was at Over Lostock, be-

stowed by Hugh Lupus on his great nephew, Robert le Grosvenour. In 1234, Richard le Grosvenour fixed his seat at Hulme; but in the reign of Henry VI. it was transferred to this place by the marriage of Rawlin, or Ralph Grosvenour, with Joan, daughter of John Eaton, of Eaton, Esq.

Near Eaton is *Aldford* bridge, over the Dee, forming a communication between the two parts of the hundred.

Further south is the little town of *Farn*, or *Farndon*, on the Dee, called in Doomſday-book *Ferenton*. Its church was burnt by the parliament army during the siege of Holt castle, in 1645, and afterwards rebuilt. In one window, over the pew of the family of Barnston, is some beautiful painted glass, representing a commander in his tent, surrounded with military instruments. Around these are sixteen figures of soldiery of different ranks, and over the heads of the officers are coats of arms belonging to several Cheshire families of loyalists during the civil wars. This town is parted only by an ancient stone-bridge from that of *Holt*, in Denbighshire, famous for its castle, which was demolished after the parliament had obtained possession of it.

Not far distant from hence, along a flat country, having a pleasing view of the Broxton hills, is *Shocklach*, where was an ancient castle, held after the Conquest by Robert Fitzhugh. It belonged to the barony of Malpas. Nothing except a foss marks out its site. On the the opposite side of the road is a great mount, probably of much greater antiquity than the castle, and once used as an exploratory station.

The only market town of this hundred is

### M A L P A S,

A small town, situated at the south-western corner of the county, near the detached part of Flintshire, which is said to have derived its name from the bad roads by which it is approached. It was an ancient barony, and had a castle, of which there are now no remains. From one of its barons, who took the name of Cholmondeley from the lordship so called, is descended the present earl of Cholmondeley, with which title is joined that of viscount Malpas. The town has a grammar-school, and a charitable establishment, both founded by Sir Randle Brereton. Its market is on Monday, and it has an annual fair in December. The church is a fine one, endowed with large revenues, which maintain two rectors and two curates. In the church is a family vault belonging to earl Cholmondeley, in which a long race of his ancestors lie entombed.

*Cholmondeley-hall*, the ancient seat of this family, with its park, is a little to the north-east of Malpas.

### NAMPTWICH HUNDRED.

THIS hundred, the most southerly in Cheshire, is divided into two nearly equal parts by the river Weaver, and is distinguished by the fertility of its pastures, and the richness of its dairies. Its capital is the town whence it takes its name,

## N A M P T W I C H.

THIS town is situated near the borders of Staffordshire and Shropshire, in a fertile vale on the banks of the Weaver, near a small stream. It is surrounded by some of the finest dairy land in the county, in which the richest and largest of the Cheshire cheeses are made. The town is ancient, and was erected into a barony by Hugh Lupus, who bestowed it on William de Malbedeng or de Malbang, a Norman chieftain, from whom it obtained the name of *Wich Malbang*. The barony was afterwards split into small parcels, which was probably the cause why the town was never incorporated. At present it confers the title of baron upon the earl of Cholmondeley, who has tolls of cattle, roots and fruit fold in it. Mr. Crewe, of Crewe, the patron of the church, has the tolls of corn and fish.

Namptwich was formerly reckoned the second town in the county, but has been out-stripped by some others which have obtained more benefit from the modern increase of manufactures. It contains more than 600 houses, mostly old, disposed in spacious streets. It has a plentiful weekly market on Saturday, and three annual fairs, in March, September, and December. It is governed by constables. The church is a very handsome pile, in form of a cross, with an octagonal tower in the centre. The east and west windows are filled with elegant tracery. The roof of the chancel is of stone, adorned with sculpture. The stalls are neat, and are said to have been brought from the abbey of Vale Royal at the dissolution. The living is a small vicarage. In the street called the Welch Row were anciently two hospitals, now entirely destroyed. A large house near the end of it, called *Town's-end*, was till lately

lately the residence of the respectable family of Wilbraham, one of whom, Thomas Wilbraham, Esq. had the honour of entertaining king James I. when he made a visit to this town. There are in the town various alms-houses founded by the Wilbrahams and other charitable inhabitants. There is a free-school, founded by John and Thomas Thrusch, natives of this place, who exercised the trade of wool-packers in London. Another school, where forty boys are clothed and taught English, called the blue-caps, has been supported chiefly by the family of Wilbraham, aided by the liberality of the Crewe family. In the year 1780 was erected a large and commodious workhouse within that part of the township called *Beam-beath*, and within the barony thereof, in consequence of a grant from the earl of Cholmondeley.

The chief trade of Namptwich is in shoes, which are sent to London. It has a small manufacture of gloves; but those of bone-lace and stockings, once considerable, are now lost. The tanning business was a source of much wealth to the town in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I.

Namptwich is one of the salt towns, commonly called the *Wiches*, and seems formerly to have been one of the principal of them. In the reign of Elizabeth here were 216 salt works, of six *leads-wallings* each.\* At present there are only two works of five large pans of wrought iron. The Britons, Romans, and Saxons seem successively to have procured salt from the brine pits here, and various laws and usages have prevailed from old times respecting the working of them. It was hoped that the Chester canal to this place (which terminates in a handsome broad basin near the Acton road) would have increased its salt trade to the be-

\* Probably, at all the salt towns.

nefit of both towns ; but the other salt towns lie more convenient for commerce, and abound almost to excess with that commodity.

Namptwich was the only town in Cheshire which adhered to the parliament from the beginning to the end of the civil wars of Charles I. It stood a severe siege in 1643 from Lord Byron, in which its garrison defended themselves with great obstinacy, though the place was poorly fortified, and repelled some attacks with much loss to the besiegers. It was at length relieved by the signal victory obtained over the besieging forces by the army commanded by Sir Thomas Fairfax. This town was the residence of the widow of Milton during the latter part of her life. She was the daughter of Mr. Minshull, of Stoke, in this neighbourhood.

Near Namptwich is the village of *Acton*, a considerable place as far back as the Saxon times. At the Conquest it was a member of the barony of Namptwich. It came successively to the Lovels, the Ardens, and the Wilbrahams, and at present belongs to the Hon. Wilbraham Tollemache. It has a handsome new-built church, containing some curious and well-preserved monuments of the Mainwaring and Wilbraham families.

*Wyburnbury*, a village on the London road, is supposed to have taken its name from Wibba, second king of the Mercians. The manor was anciently in the family of the Praers, from whom it came to the bishops of Litchfield and Coventry, who are still patrons of the living. The church is a very handsome building, embattled and pinnacled. It contains various monuments in memory of the Delves's of Doddington ; and likewise a magnificent one of Sir Thomas Smith, of the Hough.



At the ancient hall of *Doddington* are preserved the statues of lord Audley and his four 'squires, Delves, Dutton, Foulhurst, and Hawkeston, all Cheshire men, who obtained great renown at the battle of Poitiers.

*Crewe-hall*, the seat of the family of Crewe, was built by Sir Randle Crewe in the time of Charles I. who was the first person who brought a model of good building into this county. It is now occupied by John Crewe, Esq. member of parliament for Cheshire.

On the other side of Namptwich is *Baddiley-hall*, the seat of the Mainwarings.

*Cumbermere-abbey*, which takes its name from the adjacent mere, was formerly the site of an abbey of Cistercians, founded by Hugh Malbanc, lord of Namptwich. It now belongs to Sir Robert Salisbury Cotton, Bart. member for the county, whose seat was built out of its remains.

## EDDISBURY HUNDRED.

THIS district chiefly comprises the tract lying between Broxton hundred, and the western bank of the Weaver. A great part of it consists of the forest of Delamere, which in the time of Leland was a fair and large forest abounding with red and fallow deer, but now is a black and dreary waste, composed of deep sand or steril heath, and chiefly inhabited by rabbits, with a few black terns which skim over the pools and plasches in some part of it. A few stunted trees remain near a place called *Chamber of the Forest*, once the centre of the wood-

land tract. Tradition reports that a large town once existed in this hundred, of the name of Eddisbury; but at present it is thinly peopled, and contains no town of consequence.

On entering it from Namptwich, one of the first places is *Bunbury*, a village with a parish church, which was formerly collegiate, on the foundation of that celebrated soldier of fortune, Sir Hugh de Calvely. This Cheshire hero was born at Calvely, a neighbouring hamlet, and became a principal commander in the mercenary bands which ravaged Europe in the 14th century. He fought under the English general, lord Chandos, at the battle of Auray in 1364, in which the great Du Guesclin was taken prisoner. He then served in Spain, first against Peter the Cruel, and then for him, in the service of the Black Prince. He afterwards became governor of Calais, and of Guernsey and the adjacent isles, and was living in the reign of Henry IV. He has a magnificent tomb in Bunbury church, in which his effigy in white marble, armed, and of gigantic proportions, lies recumbent; and prodigious feats of strength and prowess are recorded of him in the popular tales of the time. In this church, which is a handsome embattled one, there are other ancient monuments. The old seat of Calvely now belongs to the Davenport family.

Somewhat further is

## T A R P O R L E Y,

A small market-town situated ten miles from Chester on the London road. Its manor and rectory are divided into six shares, of which four belong to the Ardens; one to the dean and chapter of Chester; and one to Philip Egerton, Esq. of Oulton. The living is a good

one, in the gift of John Arden, Esq. The church is large, and contains several marble monuments. This town is chiefly remarkable for being the place where a number of the principal gentlemen of the county meet at an annual hunt, equally consecrated to the pleasures of conviviality and those of the chase. The neighbouring open heaths of Delamere forest afford a favourable ground for the latter pastime.

Close within view of Tarporley, though at the distance of two miles southwards, rises the great insulated rock of *Beefton*, a most striking object from the surrounding country. It is composed of sandstone, very lofty and precipitous at one end, and sloping down to the flat on the other. Its height, from Beeston-bridge to the summit, is 366 feet. From its top is a very extensive view on every part, except where interrupted by the near approach of the Peckforton-hills. All the level country of Cheshire, the city of Chester, and the estuaries of the Dee and Mersey, are distinctly seen from it. The crest of the rock is crowned with the ruins of the famed *Beefton-castle*, proverbial in these parts for its almost impregnable strength. This fortress was first erected in 1220 by Randle Blundeville, earl of Chester. It devolved afterwards to the crown, and going through various vicissitudes, the story of which is not well known, it fell into ruins, in which state it was found by Leland in the reign of Henry VIII. It was afterwards repaired, and partook of the changeable fate of so many other fortresses during the last civil wars. It was first garrisoned by the Parliament; then taken by the royalists under the command of the noted partizan, captain Sandford, who scaled the steep side of the rock, and took it by surprize or treachery. The parliament forces then besieged it for seventeen weeks, but it held out to be relieved by prince Rupert. It was

again invested, and forced to surrender by famine after a vigorous defence of eighteen weeks. It was soon after dismantled.

The fortress consisted of an outer and inner area. The outer came about midway of the slope, and was defended by a great gateway, and a strong wall, fortified with round towers, which ran across the slope from one edge of the precipice to the other, but did not surround the hill as represented in an old print. Some parts of this wall, and about six or seven rounders, with a square tower of the gateway, still subsist. The area enclosed is four or five acres. The castle itself is near the highest part of the rock, defended on the side of the area by a vast ditch cut out of the live rock, on the other side by a steep precipice. The entrance is through a noble gateway, guarded on each side by a great round tower with walls of a prodigious thickness. Within the yard are the remains of the chapel, a rectangular building. The draw-well was of surprising depth, being sunk to the level of Beeston-brook that runs beneath. In the outer area was another well. The perpendicular side of the rock from the castle has a tremendous appearance, and is haunted by a small kind of hawk which builds in its clefts, and “wings the midway air.”

Over, on the other side of the forest, though now an insignificant village, retains the evidence of its having once been a considerable town, in its mayor, aldermen, and other corporate officers, still elected according to charter, with great regularity. A little to the north of it, on the bank of the Weaver, is *Vale Royal*, once the site of a stately monastery of Cistercians, founded by Edward I. The house is said to have been fifty-three years in building, and to have cost £.32,000; an immense sum

sum in those days ! The name of Vale Royal included all the circum-jacent tracts, and has by some been extended to all Cheshire. The estate of the abbey was granted at the dissolution to Thomas Holcroft, whose grandson sold it to the Holfords, from whom it came by marriage to the Cholmondeleys.

## T A R V I N.

A SMALL town on the border of Delamere forest on the Cheshire side, had the privilege of a market obtained for it in the reign of queen Elizabeth, by Sir John Savage, to whom it was alienated from the bishoprick of Litchfield. Its church, a rectory, still continues part of the see of Litchfield, and is a prebend in that cathedral. Here is a monument of Mr. John Thomasine, thirty-six years master of the grammar school, who was distinguished for his exquisite skill in penmanship. He particularly excelled in copying the Greek characters ; and many specimens of his writing are preserved in the cabinets of the curious, and public libraries.

## FRODSHAM.

THIS is a very small market-town, consisting chiefly of one wide street, situated beneath the hills which form the northern extremity of Delamere forest, and not far from the junction of the Weaver with the Mersey. A level, bounded by a large marsh, extends from the town to the latter river. Frodsham had formerly a castle, which, together with the town, was allotted by Edward I. to David, brother of Llewellyn, the last sovereign of Wales. It was latterly used as a mansion by the Savages, earls Rivers, and was burned down in 1652. A handsome

some modern house now occupies its site, which is at the west end of the town, just beneath a high eminence.

The church of Frodsham stands on a very elevated situation above the town, in a part called Overton ; and near it is a school, with a good house for the master, on which is a cupola for an observatory. The prospect from hence and the neighbouring eminences is very extensive, commanding the estuary of the Mersey and its bordering marshes, and the more distant parts of Lancashire beyond. The brow of a hill behind the school, called Beacon-hill, is cut into a very pleasant and striking walk. At its foot are four shooting-buts for the practice of archery. The church register of Frodsham exhibits two remarkable instances of longevity ; on March 13, 1592, was buried Thomas Hough, aged 141 ; and on the next day, Randle Wall, aged 103.

Frodsham bridge, over the Weaver, is near a mile to the east of the town. From a warehouse near it, much cheese is shipped for Liverpool. A work for the refining of rock-salt is at some distance on the bank of the river. The channel here is deep and clayey, and a disagreeable object at low water.

In the parish of Frodsham, potatoes are cultivated to a great extent. It is estimated, that not less than 100,000 bushels of 90lb. weight each have annually, for some years past, been grown in it. They meet with a ready sale in Lancashire, to which they find an easy conveyance by the river to Liverpool, and by the duke of Bridgewater's canal to Manchester.

## BUCKLOW HUNDRED.

**T**HIS hundred occupies the middle of the northern side of the county, from the junction of the Weaver and Mersey, to the border of Macclesfield hundred. On entering it from Frodsham, there appears to the right, on a high bank above the Weaver,

*Aston-hall*, a large and handsome modern house, the seat of the ancient family of Aston. To the left of it lies

## RUNCORN PARISH.

**T**HIS tract of country, lying to the east of the river Weaver near its conflux with the Mersey, and thence for some miles upwards on the banks of the latter river, is well worthy of notice, from the variety of its ground and prospects, and the objects of curiosity it contains. The first place that excites attention, after crossing Frodsham bridge, is

*Rock-Savage*, a noble pile of ruins, embosomed in wood, and seated on a rising ground above the Weaver, facing towards Frodsham. This seat was built in the reign of queen Elizabeth by Sir John Savage. By the marriage of lady Elizabeth Savage, daughter and heiress of Richard, earl Rivers, with James, earl of Barrymore, the house and estate passed into that family; but the possession proved transient; for the marriage of his daughter, lady Penelope Barry, with general Cholmondeley, transferred it to a new race, and it is now possessed by the general's grand nephew, the earl of Cholmondeley. After the marriage, the place was neglected, and fell into such speedy decay, that a gentleman who was born in the house lived to draw a pack of fox hounds through it  
after

after their game. Part of the stately front, consisting of a fine gateway with a lofty turret on each side, is still standing, as well as part of one of the sides. The rest of the pile consists only of foundation walls, broken vaults, and heaps of rubbish overgrown with weeds; the whole surrounded with enclosures of dilapidated walls. Few places in the kingdom recal more forcibly to the memory the very striking lines of the poet Dyer descriptive of a ruined mansion:

'Tis now the raven's bleak abode;  
 'Tis now th' apartment of the toad;  
 And there the fox securely feeds;  
 And there the poisonous adder breeds,  
 Conceal'd in ruins, moss, and weeds;  
 While, ever and anon there falls  
 Huge heaps of hoary moulder'd walls.

}

*Grongar-Hill.*

In the time of the Barrymores, a large range of detached offices and stabling, in a more modern style than the main building, was erected, which is now converted to the uses of a farm-house.

At a short distance from hence, just opposite to the junction of the Weaver and Mersey, is the small retired village of *Weston*. From the brow overhanging the point of land where the rivers meet, is a very magnificent water-prospect at full tide, when the broadest part of the estuary of the Mersey, stretching many miles before the eye, till it is completely land-locked by a turn in the channel, exhibits the appearance of an extensive lake, bordered on the Cheshire and Lancashire side by a variety of ground, partly naked, and partly finely wooded. The secluded situation of this spot, out of all course of roads, renders its beauties less known than they deserve to be. Farther on, upon the bank of the Mersey, is situated



*Runcorn*, a place well known as the termination of the duke of Bridgewater's canal in the Mersey. Its situation was judiciously chosen by the renowned Ethelfleda, queen of the Mercians, for the foundation of a town and castle, erected in the year 916; for here, by the projection of a tongue of land from the Lancashire side, the bed of the Mersey is suddenly contracted from a considerable breadth to a narrow channel, easily commanded from the shore. It was just opposite to this *gap*, as it is called, that Ethelfleda built the last of the range of castles by which she protected the borders of her extensive domain; and though no vestiges of the building remain, its site is marked by the name of the *Castle*, given to a triangular piece of land, surrounded with a mound of earth, jutting out into the river, guarded on the water side by ledges of rocks and broken precipices, and cut off from the land by a ditch at least six yards wide. This fortress in its entire state must have afforded an excellent defence against the naval inroads of the Danes, who ran up the rivers with their fleets at that period, and committed the most cruel ravages. The parochial church of Runcorn stands above the castle-rock. Its foundation was, perhaps, co-eval with that of Ethelfleda's town; it was certainly prior to the Conquest, since Nigel, baron of Halton, bestowed it, in the reign of the Conqueror, upon his brother Wolfrith, a priest. It became afterwards the property of Norton abbey, and on the dissolution was given to Christ-church college, Oxford. An abbey of canons regular, or Augustins, was founded here by William, the son of Nigel, in 1133, which was removed by his son William, constable of Chester, to Norton.

The consequence of Runcorn was lost in the later reigns, and it sunk into an obscure village, from which it has emerged only since the completion of the duke of Bridgewater's navigation. The vast works

formed here, consisting of a grand series of *all* the locks on his canal, through which it descends precipitously to the river, and which are supplied with water by vast basons or reservoirs, occasioned a great conflux of workmen, and the consequent building of a number of dwelling-houses, inns, shops, &c. This hurry of business has since been kept up by the erection of wharfs, a sea-wall, and an immense warehouse, constructed upon a new and excellent plan. Vast quantities of good free-stone are likewise got out of the quarries in this place, which lie contiguous to the canal, and allow of the raising of blocks of great size, which are used in the works about the canal, and are also conveyed to different places in the course of it. At Manchester this stone is sold at eight-pence the square foot.

On account of these curiosities, Runcorn is much visited by parties of pleasure from the country round, some of whom make excursions by water hence to Liverpool. It has likewise of late become a place of some resort for salt-water bathing, for in spring tides the small quantity of fresh water in the Mersey does not much dilute the strength of the sea-water flowing up this wide estuary; and the agreeable situation and good air of the place and its neighbourhood are useful auxiliaries to the effects of the bath. The shore here, and all round to Weston point, is protected by a low ridge of rock rising almost perpendicularly from the beach. The lovers of botany may find a pleasing variety of plants, both maritime and inland, in the vicinity of this place.

A mile or two upwards from Runcorn are seated the ruins of *Halton-castle*, placed on a steep elevation, and forming a conspicuous object from all this side of the country. Hugh Lupus, earl of Chester, gave the barony of Halton to Nigel, his relation and one of his officers, whom

whom he also made constable of Chester, and his marshal; and the castle was probably founded by one of the two. The manor had large privileges conferred upon it; the town of Halton was created a free borough and market town, though now no more than a village. From the posterity of Nigel it came to the house of Lancaster, and was a favourite hunting seat of John of Gaunt. It is now a considerable member of the duchy of Lancaster, having a large jurisdiction round it called Halton-fee, or the Honor of Halton, and possessing a court of record and various privileges. The castle has been in a state of demolition ever since the civil wars of Charles I.; but there is a newer building, used as an inn, containing the court-house, and called a prison, though now never used as such. The earl of Cholmondeley is proprietor under the crown. It is, however, for the prospect this place affords that it deserves visiting, which is without question the most delightful in Cheshire. Northwards, from side to side, the Mersey, winding through a fertile plain, may be distinctly traced from the neighbourhood of Warrington, where it is of the breadth of the Thames at Richmond, to its expansion into a wide channel, contracted at Runcorn-gap, and then again dilating into the estuary which continues to the sea. At low water the river is somewhat deformed by the extensive sandy shoals with which its bed is almost filled; but when the tide is in, and the scene is enlivened by a number of vessels passing and re-passing, few water prospects can be more pleasing. Beyond the Mersey, the county of Lancaster, appearing like a vast forest from the numerous hedge-row trees of its enclosures, extends till lost in the distant hills of Lancashire and Yorkshire. Westward, a large reach into Cheshire, bounded by the Welch mountains, is seen, and immediately under the eye lie the scattered houses and farms of Halton; while to the east, the fine house and grounds of Norton, the seat of Sir Richard Brooke, afford a near

landscape of great beauty. Through the pleasure grounds of Norton the duke of Bridgewater's canal is led in an elegantly winding course, and proceeding beneath Halton to Runcorn, adds another interesting object to the prospect.

Halton has a chapel, under the church of Runcorn, and a neat but small library, left for public use, furnished chiefly with old books of history and divinity, some of them valuable.

The house at *Norton* is built upon the site of an ancient monastery of Augustines, the lands of which were conferred on the family of Brooke at the dissolution.

On pursuing the course of the canal eastwards, we come to *Preston-Brook*, near the village of Preston-on-the-hill, where the duke of Bridgewater's canal, after passing a tunnel, enters the Staffordshire navigation. Wharfs are erected here for storing goods that go by land to Frodsham, Chester, and parts adjacent, either brought from Manchester, or landed from the Staffordshire canal. The banks of the canal are covered with heaps of flint brought by sea for the use of the potteries. The passage boats from Manchester come as far as this place.

The next remarkable station on the duke of Bridgewater's canal is *Stockton quay*, at London bridge, a mile and a half from Warrington. This is a busy scene of traffic from the quantity of goods shipped and landed at its warehouses, which lie upon the great London road from the north through Cheshire. A number of carriages are also generally in waiting to convey the passengers who land here from Manchester in  
their

their way to Warrington, and thence by the coaches to Liverpool, &c. The soil hereabouts is a deep fand, which renders the roads very heavy.

Not far from this place rises the pretty eminence called *Hill-Cliff*, ending precipitously towards the north, to which quarter it affords a very pleasing prospect of the canal, the Mersey, the town of Warrington, and all the flat part of Lancashire as far as the Yorkshire hills. The sides of the hill are cloathed with plantations, and its summit is crowned with a summer-house, making a picturesque object from the subjacent country. A neighbouring hill over which the London road passes has a large quarry of a red grit-stone.

The village of *Lymm* is a beautiful object in the course of the canal, which is here carried at a great height over a stream, forming a mill dam, and turning a mill for flitting iron and flattening it into hoops for the cooper's use. There are several good houses in the village, and the situation of the parsonage house, above a deep and romantic valley, is much admired. In *Lymm* is an ancient cross of Gothic architecture.

## KNUTSFORD.

THIS is the principal town of Bucklow hundred. It is divided as it were into two towns, called High and Low Knutsford. By a charter granted in the reign of Edward I. it appears that William de Tableigh was lord of both of them. The lordship is now in the duke of Bridgewater. The market-day is Saturday. The upper town has a fair on Tuesday in Whitfun week; and the lower has two, in June and October.

*Knutsford* is a neat town, containing betwixt two and three thousand inhabitants. It has never been a place of much trade. Its principal manufacture has been that of thread, for which it was long noted. A small portion of the flax used in this manufacture is grown in Yorkshire, but the bulk of it is brought from Ireland, Russia, and Hamburgh. A few years ago it was almost entirely brought in its raw state, and was spun in Knutsford and its neighbourhood ; but since the increase of the cotton trade, the flax spinners have been led to engage in this more lucrative employment, and the flax is now principally spun abroad, and is brought to Knutsford in the state of yarn. This manufacture, of course, employs much fewer hands than formerly. The thread is sent to the different parts of England, and some to America.

About twenty-five years since, a large building was erected in the town for doubling and twisting of silk for the use of the London manufacturers. It was used for this purpose for some years, and employed a considerable number of hands ; but not being found to answer, the employment was discontinued. The building has since been used for the spinning of cotton, a branch of trade in which, within these few years, this town has partaken, though in no considerable degree ; and, indeed, since the late check given to trade, very few hands are employed in it.

Knutsford is particularly noted for the numerous families of gentry residing in its neighbourhood, which contribute much to the support of the town. It has an elegant assembly room, where they have frequent meetings ; and the races here are inferior to few in the kingdom for the display of fashionable company.

The church is a handsome brick building, of modern erection, and lately furnished with an organ. The old church was about a mile from the town, and some portion of it is still kept standing, as an ornamental object from the grounds of a neighbouring gentleman (P. Legh, Esq. of Booths.) It is a vicarage, and is reckoned worth betwixt 200 and £.300 per annum.

A custom prevails in this town, which is, we believe, confined to it. On the marriage of any inhabitant of the town or neighbourhood, in addition to the common tokens of joy, as ringing of bells, &c. the friends and acquaintances of the parties strew the streets with brown sand, and on this, figure with white sand various fanciful and emblematical devices, and over the whole are occasionally strewed the flowers of the season. This custom serves at least this good end, that it keeps the streets clean.

At a small distance round Knutsford are the following seats: *Tabley-house*, Sir J. F. Leicester's; *Tatton-hall*, Mr. Egerton's; *Mere-hall*, Mr. Brookes's; *Booth's-hall*, Mr. Legh's; *Arley-hall*, Sir Peter Warburton's; *Tost-hall*, Mr. Leicester's; *Highb-Legb-hall*, Mr. Legh's; *Capesthorpe*, Mr. Davenport's; *Afle*, Mr. Parker's; *Withington*, Mr. Glegg's; and many other old family mansions. Of these seats, *Tabley* and *Tatton* are the most considerable. *Tatton*, of which a view is annexed, has a very extensive park of near 25,000 acres of arable and pasture land. The house is new, and designed by Wyatt, in a taste of elegant simplicity; only one side, which is of stone, and the offices, are yet built. The stables, which are also new and designed by the same architect, are in a similar style. The situation of the house is very fine, being on an elevated spot of ground in the middle of the park, from the front of which a lawn falls gradually to a fine piece of water, called

Tatton-mere, at somewhat more than half a mile's distance. The view beyond the mere, after taking in a variety of lesser objects, is terminated by Alderly-edge, and the distant hills dividing Cheshire from the neighbouring counties, among which the bold termination of, *the Cloud*, near Congleton, is particularly striking. The gardens are very extensive, and kept with peculiar neatness, and the pinery is remarkably large and well constructed.

*Tabley House*, the seat of Sir John Fleming Leicester, Bart. is an elegant and noble edifice, the chef d'œuvre of the celebrated architect Carr. The portico is executed in the Doric order, and is remarkable for the size of its pillars, which are the largest in the kingdom, consisting of single stones. The stables, which are just finished, may be considered as a perfect model, both as to magnificence and convenience. They consist of a neat, elegant quadrangle, in the middle of which is a spacious riding house. The offices belonging to the stables, for such they may with great propriety be styled, are convenient beyond description.

A part of the old mansion remains at a considerable distance in the park, and forms a very picturesque and venerable ruin. It was the original habitation of that celebrated antiquarian, Sir Peter Leycester, Bart. author of the *Antiquities of Cheshire*, &c. The park is extensive, through which runs a beautiful stream that is formed into a spacious sheet of water.

*Booth's-hall*, the seat of Peter Legh, Esq. of which a view is annexed, is a plain house, built of brick and stone, with an extensive park, containing some fine pieces of water, particularly the lake over which the house is seen in the view. The prospect from the mansion is very beautiful, the eye ranging over a great extent of country well diversified,





85  
May 24, 1885

Spencer, Mass.

VIEW OF BOOTH'S TAIL.

Booth's Tail, N. H., in the distance.



verified, in which the lake and canal, making a conspicuous figure, render it a truly charming situation.

Here is a fine picture of Guerschino, the Death of Dido : it contains some beautiful passages, and the air of the heads is inimitably graceful. This seat is one mile from Knutsford.

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### ALTRINGHAM.

THIS is a small, but very neat, town, situated in the course of the duke of Bridgewater's canal, eight miles from Manchester. It is governed by a mayor, and has a guild mercatory for free traffic, granted to it by charter from Hamon de Massey, lord of Dunham Massey, about the year 1290. Its trade, notwithstanding, is inconsiderable. It has a market on Saturday, and a fair on St. James's day, formerly extremely crowded by company from Manchester, but now little frequented. The number of people in Altringham was accurately taken in 1772, when there appeared to be 248 families, and 1029 inhabitants. About twenty years before the number was very near 1000, so that the population has not greatly been affected by the neighbourhood of manufactures. The spinning of combed worsted prevailed formerly throughout this district, the wool being delivered out at Manchester by those who employed Jersey-combers there, to the people when they came to market, and the worsted yarn being sold to the small-ware manufacturers : but the introduction of Irish worsted ruined the business. Some stuffs for home wear are, however, still made from the housewives' spinning in these districts. It is singular that this town has no church or chapel,

its inhabitants being obliged to go to the parish church of Bowden, above a mile's distance, for public worship.

Not far from Altringham is *Dunham Massey*, the seat of the earl of Stamford, a house of no great appearance, but spacious and commodious within. It is chiefly built of brick, of a quadrangular form, with a court in the centre, and contains many family pictures. It is seated in the midst of an extensive park, full of fine timber, the unmolested growth of many years, through which avenues or vistas are cut, affording views of the hall. Several of the oaks are of extraordinary magnitude, making a most venerable appearance; and on their tops is a heronry, in which those birds build in society like rooks. The ground near the house has lately been laid out in an ornamental manner with shrubberies, flower-beds, &c. This mansion was long the seat of the Booths, first lords Delamere, then earls of Warrington. By the death of George, the late earl, in 1758, the title became extinct; but the estate came into the possession of the earl of Stamford, who had married his only daughter, the mother of the present earl. This noble family have long afforded to the country an instructive example of the virtues by which rank and fortune are made truly useful and respectable. The annexed view was taken in 1793.

#### NORTHWICH HUNDRED.

**T**HIS is situated to the south of the last-mentioned hundred, and principally comprehends the tracts lying on each side of the rivers Dane and Wheelock. It is well furnished with market-towns, of which the principal is that which gives name to the hundred.

NORTH-

Essex 1877

VIEW OF DUNHAM.

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## NORTHWICH.

THIS is a small and ancient market-town situated at the conflux of the Dane with the Weaver. Its market is on Friday. It has two annual fairs, in August and December, which have lately become much frequented, to the great advantage of the inhabitants. It has a well endowed free-grammar school. From its central situation, surrounded with gentlemen's seats; it is a place of considerable resort for the transaction of public business, and other purposes.

Northwich is, however, principally distinguished as the chief of the salt towns, and the only one of them which, in addition to brine springs, possesses mines of rock-salt. The discovery of this valuable mineral was made about a century ago, in the lands of William Marbury, Esq. of Marbury, near this town. It has since been found in the adjoining townships of Wilton, Marston, Wincham, and Winnington; but in no other part of the kingdom than this neighbourhood. The inhabitants, however, have a tradition that the rock as well as the brine pits were wrought in the time of the Romans.

Rock-salt is found from twenty-eight to forty-eight yards beneath the surface of the earth. The first stratum or mine met with is from fifteen to twenty-one yards in thickness, perfectly solid, and so hard as to be cut with great difficulty with iron picks and wedges. Of late, the workmen have blasted it with gunpowder, by which they loosen and remove many tons together. The appearance of the salt is extremely resembling that of brown sugar-candy. Beneath this stratum is a bed of hard stone, consisting of large veins of flag, intermixed with some

rock salt, the whole from twenty-five to thirty-five yards in thickness. Under this bed is a second stratum, or mine, of salt, from five to six yards thick, many parts of it perfectly white, and clear as crystal, others browner, but all purer than the upper stratum, yet reckoned not so strong. Above the whole mass of salt lies a bed of whitish clay, which has been used in the Liverpool earthen ware; and in the same place is found a good deal of gypsum, or plaster stone.

Rock-salt pits are sunk at great expence, and are very uncertain in their duration, being frequently destroyed by the brine springs bursting into them, and dissolving the pillars, by which the whole work falls in, leaving vast chasms on the surface of the earth. In forming a pit, a shaft or eye is sunk, similar to that of a coal-pit, but more extensive. After the workmen have got down to the salt-rock, and made a proper cavity, they leave a sufficient substance of the rock, about seven yards in thickness, to form a solid roof, and as they proceed, they hew pillars out of the rock for the support of that roof, and then employ gunpowder to separate what they mean to raise. When well illuminated, the crystalline surface of the roof, pillars, and sides of a large pit, make a glittering and magnificent appearance. Fresh air is conveyed from the mouth of the pit by means of a tube, to which is fixed a pair of forge bellows, forming a continual current between the outer air and that in the pit. The pits at the greatest depth are dry, and of a comfortable temperature.

The largest rock-salt pit now worked, is in the township of Witton, and in the lands of Nicholas Ashton, Esq. It is worked in a circular form, 108 yards in diameter, its roof supported by twenty-five pillars, each three yards wide at the front, four at the back, and its sides ex-



tending six yards. The pit is fourteen yards hollow; consequently each pillar contains 294 solid yards of rock salt; and the whole area of the pit contains 9160 superficial yards, little less than two acres of land.

The average quantity of rock-salt annually delivered from the pits in the neighbourhood of Northwich for the last seven years is 50,484 tons. Another account states the annual average (no period mentioned) at about 65,000 tons. Upon this last calculation, the mode in which the rock-salt is disposed of is stated to be, exported to Dunkirk, Ostend, Riga, Bruges, Nieuport, Pillau, Elsinur, &c. from 45 to 50,000 tons: ditto to Ireland, from 3000 to 4000 tons: refined in England, viz.

At Northwich, 5000 tons,	Liverpool, 3000 tons,
Frodsham, - 3000 do.	Dungeon works, 2500 do.

The rock-salt, as well as the white salt, made at Northwich, is conveyed down the Weaver, and thence by the Mersey to Liverpool in vessels from fifty to eighty tons burthen, and there re-shipped for foreign countries, or kept for refinement. We have already mentioned the great advantage Liverpool has derived from possessing such an article for the ballast-loading of its outward-bound ships.

Northwich likewise much surpasses the other salt towns in the salt made from brine springs; and being, therefore, the centre of the Cheshire salt trade, we shall take this occasion of concluding all we have further to say concerning this product.

The average quantity of falt made from the Cheshire brine springs, which are inexhaustible in quantity, and many of them fully faturated, is supposed to be nearly,

At Northwich, - - 45,000 tons,	Lawton, - - 1500 tons,
Winsford, - - - 15,000 do.	Namptwich, - 60 do.
Middlewich, - - 4000 do.	

If to these numbers be added, for refined rock-falt, at

Northwich, - 5000 tons,	Frodsham, - 4000 tons.
-------------------------	------------------------

the whole quantity of falt made in Cheshire will appear; viz. about 74,560 tons. .

The usual depth of the brine springs is from twenty to forty yards. The mode of crySTALLISING falt, is by putting the brine into large iron pans, of twenty or thirty feet square, and fourteen inches deep, where it is heated till it boils: a light scum then rises to the top, which being taken off, the liquor is reduced to a lower degree of heat; the steam arising is made to evaporate as quickly as possible; and the falt crySTALLISING forms a crust on the surface, which sinks to the bottom of the pan, whence it is taken out once or twice in twenty-four hours. The quantity annually crySTALLISED is computed at about 35,000 tons. All the fine hard basket falt is not crySTALLISED. Of the white falt, about 15 or 16,000 tons are consumed in England and Wales, exclusive of what is refined from rock-falt. The duty on falt consumed at home is 5s. per bushel of 56lb., or £.10 per ton, gross duty, subject to a discount of 10 per cent. on refined, and 7½ on white falt; the duty paid weekly. All falt is exported duty free, the exporter giving bond for the amount of the duty, which is cancelled by debenture obtained from the custom-house when the vessel clears. No falt has been allowed to be used as manure, since the year 1778, when an act passed to levy an equal duty

on all falt of what quality foever. The obstacle this affords to agricultural improvements has already been noted.

The revenue arising from falt is thought of so much consequence, that a particular board is appointed for the collection and management of it, having a department quite independent on the excise and customs. Not a peck of falt can go from the works without a permit, under the risque of forfeiture and high penalties ; and officers are stationed on the roads to demand a sight of permits, and to re-weigh on fuspicion of fraud.

The number of hands employed in Cheshire in getting rock-falt, and making white and refined falt, is supposed to be about 1200.

*Winnington-hall*, very pleasantly situated on the Weaver within a mile of Northwich, is the feat of lord Penrhyn.

Acrofs the river, and in the hundred of Bucklow, is *Marbury-hall*, the feat of the Barry family, in the parish, and close to the extensive meer of Great Budworth.

## MIDDLEWICH.

THIS place derives its name from being the middlemoft of the *Wiches*, or falt towns. It is feated at the conflux of the Dane with the Croke. Middlewich is an ancient borough, governed by its burgefles, and poffeffing the fame privileges with the other falt towns. Its market is on Tuefday, and it has annual fairs on July 25th, and on Holy Thursday. The church is a vicarage, comprehending a large parish divided into many townships. The falt here is made from brine fprings well faturated ; the quantity is not very confiderable, but might be increased on demand. The Staffordshire canal paffes by the town. Middlewich is a tolerably well-built place, of moderate fize and pleasantly fituated.

Near

Near Middlewich is *Kinderton*, which gave title to one of the ancient barons who composed the upper house of the parliament of the earls of Chester. This was the family of Venables, now represented by lord Vernon of Kinderton, the only lineal successor of the eight Cheshire barons, who has descended to our times.

Not far from hence is *Holm's-chapel*, formerly a great thoroughfare for passengers from Lancashire to London by Talk-on-the-Hill, but of late years much less frequented, on account of the new roads by Buxton and Derby, and by Congleton and Leek. Its manor belongs to the family of Needham.

*Rudheath*, a wild and spacious district in this neighbourhood, was formerly a place of refuge for criminals, who were protected here from justice for the space of a year and a day. But this noxious privilege was found to be such a nuisance to the country, that it was abolished even before the suppression of popery.

## S A N D B A C H.

THIS small town is situated on a high bank upon the little river Wheelock, not far from Middlewich. It was made a market-town in the last century by its lord, Sir John Radcliffe of Ordsall, Lancashire: its market-day is Thursday, and it has two annual fairs, in Easter week and September. In the market-place are two square crosses, with images, and the story of the Passion engraved on them. Formerly, worsted yarn, and some stuffs for country wear were made here, but its trade has much declined. It was likewise famous for its malt liquor.

*Brereton-*

*Brereton-hall*, in its neighbourhood, was the seat of the ancient family of that name. Near it is a pool, concerning which it was the tradition of the place, that trunks of trees were seen floating upon it for several days together before the death of an heir of the family. A fair is kept yearly on Lammas day on *Brereton-green*.

## CONGLETON.

THIS town is situated on the upper part of the *Dane*, near the borders of *Staffordshire*. It is a small corporation, being governed by a mayor and six aldermen. The buildings are neat; the market-day is Saturday, and there are four yearly fairs. Congleton has two churches, one in the town, one at the bridge end across the river; both under the mother church of *Astbury*, two miles distant. This place was formerly noted for the making of tagged leather laces, called Congleton points. It has now a manufactory of gloves, with some ferreting; but the chief employment for the poor is derived from a very capital silk mill, erected on the river, and from the manufactory of ribands on account of the *Coventry* merchants.

*Astbury* is a large parish, containing many gentlemens' seats. It has a handsome church, with a lofty spire steeple. In the church-yard are two ancient stone monuments, with the insignia of knighthood upon them, but it is not determined to what families they belong.

*Lawton*, at the south western extremity of the hundred, on the *Staffordshire* border, contains the seat of the family of that name, which has inhabited this place for many generations. There is a considerable

salt work in this parish, which has the advantage of the Staffordshire canal passing through it.

### M A C C L E S F I E L D H U N D R E D.

**T**HIS is the most extensive hundred in Cheshire, comprising all its north-eastern side, and partaking of the wild and hilly character of the adjacent parts of Derbyshire and Yorkshire. A great part of it was anciently a forest, and a considerable district still retains the name of Macclesfield forest, though at present a naked and dreary tract. The head of this district, and also of the hundred, is

### M A C C L E S F I E L D,

A **BOROUGH** or corporate town. Its first charter was granted in 1261 by Edward, son of Henry III., afterwards king Edward I. It conferred the privileges of a merchants' guild free from toll throughout the county of Chester, and a common pasture, and contained the usual obligations on the burghesses to grind and bake at the king's mill and oven, and to pay a shilling for each burgage. This charter was confirmed by many of the succeeding kings, with various additional privileges.

The corporation consists of twenty-four aldermen, four of whom are in the commission of the peace, and one is mayor and justice of the quorum. Its officers are a town-clerk and coroner, two serjeants at mace, four javelin men, and a constable or town crier. The mayor is always lord of the manor, the revenue of which amounts to about £.200 per annum, arising from tolls, and the money paid for water, which is conveyed by pipes from springs on the common. He also has the right of nominating the preacher or minister of the parochial church.

Macclesfield stands upon the descent of a steep hill, washed by a branch of the Bollin, which runs through the lowest part of the town, commonly named the Waters. It is well supplied with good water from the springs on the common above-mentioned. It has two churches of the establishment, and five other places of worship. The old church or parochial chapel of St. Michael was founded by Edward I. and Eleanor his queen, in the seventh year of his reign. It was some time afterwards enlarged; and being decayed, was taken down to the chancel, enlarged and rebuilt in 1740, at the expence of £.1000. It is a large Gothic building, and has two chapels annexed to it. One of these was built by Thomas Savage, archbishop of York, whose heart was buried here in 1508; and was made the burial-place of the Savages, afterwards earls Rivers, to whom there are various marble monuments. It now belongs to earl Cholmondeley. The other chapel belongs to the Leghs, of Lyme; one of whom, Perkin a Legh, buried here, is said by an inscription to have obtained the estate and lordship of Lyme as a reward for his services in the battle of Cressy.

The new church, called Christ-church, built by the late Charles Roc, Esq. is a regular, elegant structure, having a steeple with ten bells, and a handsome organ. Over the altar is a fine bust of Mr. Roc, executed by Bacon. This church was begun in March 1775, and opened for divine service on Christmas day in the same year, with near 800 communicants.

Macclesfield has a large and elegant free-grammar school, with a spacious dwelling-house for the head-master, and a field for the boys to exercise. It has been brought into much reputation by the present master, who has a number of boarders, and assistants in various branches

of learning. The school was founded by Edward VI. : its original endowment was to the amount of £.25 in houses and lands ; but so great have been the improvements of the town, that they now produce near £.800 per annum.

The sessions for the hundred and forest are held at Macclesfield every Easter and Michaelmas to try all causes less than felony. An inferior court is held by the mayor and justices every Friday for petty causes, and a bench of justices sits every Monday. The market day is Monday, and there are fairs on St. Barnabas and All Souls' days.

In the town's-box is preserved a copy of a petition sent to king Henry VII. soon after the battle of Bosworth, setting forth, that having lost so many of the principal inhabitants of the town in the battle, they were unable to fill up the number of aldermen required by the charter ; on which account they petitioned his majesty that their charter might not be considered as broken, their townsmen having lost their lives in his service.

Henry Stafford, the great duke of Buckingham, the instrument of the ambition of Richard III., lived here in great state and hospitality. Of his mansion there are still some remains.

With respect to the trade of Macclesfield, that of wrought buttons in silk, mohair, and twist, is properly its staple. The history of this button trade affords some curious particulars. The use of them may be traced 150 years backwards ; and they were once curiously wrought with the needle, making a great figure in full-trimmed suits. Macclesfield was always considered as the centre of this trade, and mills  
were



were erected long ago both there and at Stockport for winding filk and making twist for buttons, and trimming suitable to them.

In the wild country between Buxton, Leek, and Macclesfield, called *the Flash*, from a chapel of that name, lived a set of pedestrian chapmen, who hawked about these buttons, together with ribands and ferreting made at Leek, and handkerchiefs, with small wares from Manchester. These pedlars were known on the roads which they travelled by the appellation of *Flash-men*, and frequented farm-houses and fairs, using a sort of slang or canting dialect. At first they paid ready money for their goods, till they acquired credit, which they were sure to extend till no more was to be had; when they dropped their connections without paying, and formed new ones. They long went on thus, enclosing the common where they dwelt for a trifling payment, and building cottages, till they began to have farms, which they improved from the gains of their credit, without troubling themselves about payment, since no bailiff for a long time attempted to serve a writ there. At length, a resolute officer, a native of the district, ventured to arrest several of them; whence their credit being blown up, they changed the wandering life of pedlars for the settled care of their farms. But as these were held by no leases, they were left at the mercy of the lords of the soil, the Harpur family, who made them pay for their impositions on others.

Another set of pedestrians from the country where buttons were formerly made, was called the *Broken-cross Gang*, from a place of that name between Macclesfield and Congleton. These associated with the *Flash-men* at fairs, playing with thimbles and buttons, like jugglers with cups and balls, and enticing people to lose their money by gambling. They at length took to the kindred trades of robbing and pick-

ing pockets, till at length the gang was broken up by the hands of justice. We cannot but remark, that Autolycus in Shakespear seems to have been a model of this worthy brotherhood.

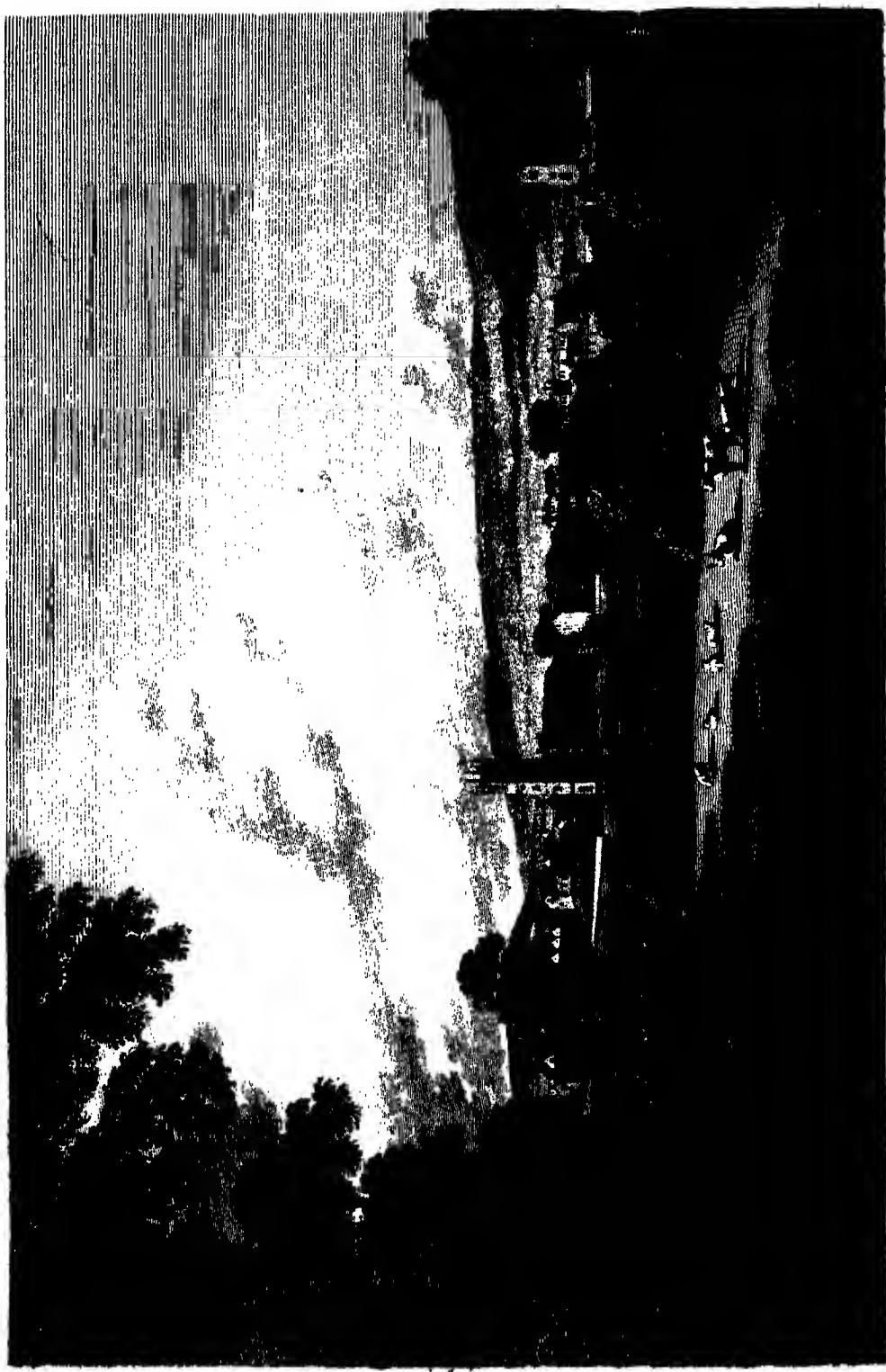
In order to favour the button trade, an act of parliament passed about eighty years ago, inflicting a penalty upon the wearing of moulds covered with the same stuff with the garment; and this, after having fallen into neglect, was again attempted to be enforced with rigour in 1778, and hired informers were engaged in London and the country to put it into execution—an odious and very uncommercial mode of enforcing a manufacture! the result of which was rather to promote the use of metal and horn buttons. The trade is still, however, considerable.

Macclesfield has likewise between twenty and thirty silk mills, and many cotton factories; for here, as well as in the other Cheshire towns, the cotton trade is gaining ground upon the older branches of manufacture. It has also a very extensive work for smelting and working copper, and making brass. This is situated upon a large common to the east of the town; and consists, first, of a large square building, called the smelting houses, where the ore is melted and refined, and the metal cast into shot. In this building large furnace-bricks and melting pots are likewise made. There is next a large windmill for grinding the ore; and near it are the calamy houses, a range of low buildings, where the calamine is repeatedly washed in running water. The brass houses are a number of lofty buildings where copper is made into sheets for the sheathing of ships; and pan bottoms, brass wire and brass nails are manufactured. Before the works are three large reservoirs for the supply of water, and a row of dwelling houses for the numerous workmen. A large colliery with four seams of coal, one above another,



Water south

C. D. Chapman delin.







another, is on the same common, whence the town and the copper works are supplied with fuel. A capital brewery in the neighbourhood of the works is furnished with water from a hill much higher than its roof. In the front of it runs the river, which turns the corn mill and a number of silk mills.

The houses in Macclesfield are more than doubled within these twenty-five years. The town is now a mile and a quarter in length ; and the new buildings on each side of the London road form a considerable part of the additions. The annexed view of Macclesfield was taken from Stanley's acre.

Coal abounds in the neighbourhood of Macclesfield, which supplies the surrounding country, and is used for the burning of the lime of Buxton. The township of *Bollington* has a very large steam engine belonging to a coal pit ; and on the river here is a curious water machine for grinding bark, and a large cotton work, with very complete machinery for all the branches of that manufacture. The township of *Rainow* has a smaller one of the same kind, and likewise a large colliery.

There are various gentlemen's seats in the neighbourhood of Macclesfield, particularly towards the west and north, some of which we shall enumerate.

*Henbury-hall*, late the seat of Sir William Meredith, is now occupied by Mr. Jodrell, who has rendered it a very delightful residence.

*Capesthorpe*, a seat with a small park, is the mansion of the Davenport family.

On the west side of that elevated tract of ground called Alderley-edge, is situated *Alderley-hall*, the property and late residence of Sir J. T. Stanley, Bart. to whom the greater part of that tract belongs. This house was in great part destroyed by fire a few years ago. It is surrounded with a fine moat of running water, well stocked with fish. Adjoining is the old park, which contains some remarkably large beech trees.

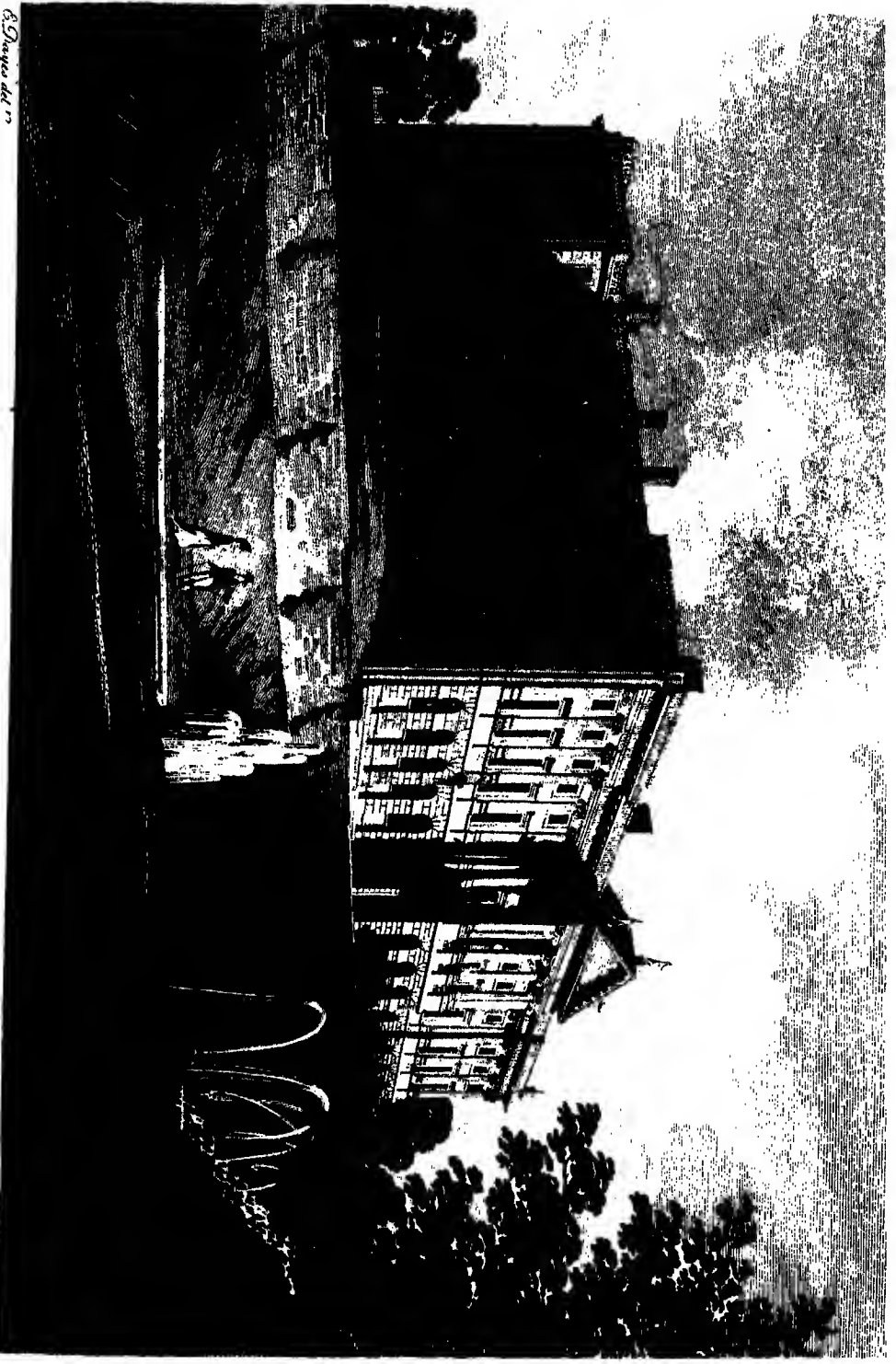
Northwards from Macclesfield is *Presbury*, reckoned the largest parish in Cheshire, and having under it a number of chapels in the circumjacent country. Its living, a vicarage, is in the gift of Mrs. Legh, the heiress of the estates of the Leghs of Adlington, whose seat, *Adlington-hall*, is at a small distance on the road to Stockport. Belonging to it is an extensive park, stocked with a great quantity of fine oak timber of considerable growth, and most of it fit for cutting. A fine stream flows through the midst of the park. The old custom of driving the deer through a sheet of water is still continued here.

*Mottram St. Andrew-hall*, Mr. Wright's; and *Pott Shrigley*, Mr. Downes's, lie to the west and east of Adlington.

More to the east, among the hills, is *Lyme-hall*, the seat of the principal of the families of the name of Legh, which also possesses Haydock in Lancashire; at present represented by Thomas Legh, Esq. M. P. for Newton, and colonel of a regiment of light-horse raised by himself. The building is on a quadrangular plan, forming a large court, with a piazza round three sides of it, which gives the whole an air of grandeur. It is irregular, the N. and E. angles being of the date of Elizabeth or James I. and the S. and W. a regular Ionic structure from a design of Beoni. The situation is bad; the country round barren and moorish;  
and



Edwards del.

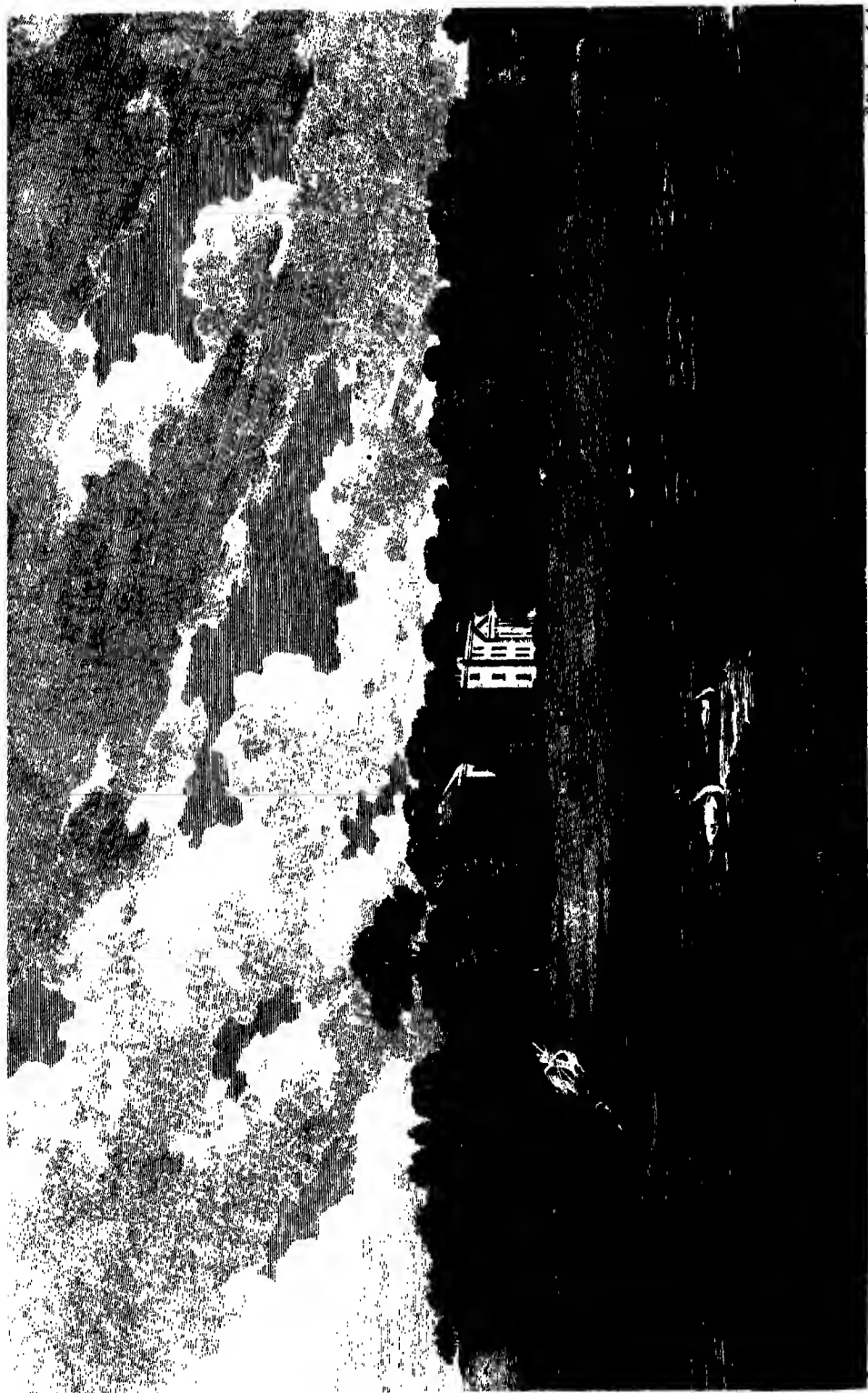


W. H. Mason sculp.

VIEW OF LIME HALL,







*Alfred W. P.*

*A. W. P.*

VIEW OF POYNTON.

and though the elevation is such as to render it much exposed to the wind, there is no view from the house. It stands in the midst of a very extensive park, well stocked with deer, which are famous for taking the water when driven by the keeper. The soil appears to suit these animals, as the venison is of a superior flavour. On the top of an eminence in the park is a building called Lyme Cage, a very conspicuous object from the country round.

On the road from Macclesfield to Stockport, at four miles distance from the latter, is *Poynton*, the seat of Sir George Warren, Bart. K. B. The house is an elegant piece of architecture of the Ionic order, and is decorated with beautiful pleasure grounds and a fine piece of water, as shown in the annexed view, which was taken from the Stockport road. The park is very extensive and well laid out, and from one part of it is a delightful prospect, taking in Stockport and Manchester, and stretching away to the remote parts of Lancashire. The park has lately been much augmented. It contains considerable quantities of timber in various parts of it, but its subterraneous riches, consisting of thick veins of coal of the best quality, are inexhaustible. The following singular story is related of their discovery. An old tenant of one of the farms had long laboured under the inconvenience of being obliged to fetch his water at a distance. He had frequently petitioned his landlord that he might have a well sunk, which had often been promised, but its execution neglected. Wearied out at length, he gave notice that he should quit the premises. Sir George not willing to lose a respectable farmer, who had long been his nearest neighbour, assured him that his request for a well should be complied with, and had the work immediately set about. The spring lay a considerable depth; and before they got to the water, the workmen were agreeably surprized with finding one of

the finest veins of coal in that country. It has continued to be worked with great success ever since ; and the lucky discovery has greatly enhanced the value of the park and estate. The farmer still resides on the spot.

One mile further is *Bullock Smithy*, a village of considerable length. Here Mr. Legh, of Booths, has built an elegant, small house, called *Torkington-lodge*, placed upon a rising ground, and surrounded with pleasure grounds laid out with taste. At Torkington, the road turns off for Buxton, through Disley. It is a good road, though hilly, and commands delightful prospects in various parts.

## STOCKPORT.

THIS town, seated on the Lancashire border, was one of the eight baronies of Cheshire, and has a charter from its ancient lord, Robert de Stokeport, who granted an homestead and an acre of land to each of his burgesses, on the yearly payment of one shilling. The lordship, as well as the patronage of the rectory, is now in Sir George Warren, of Poynton. From its vicinity to Manchester, the distance being only seven miles, it has participated in a great degree in the flourishing state of the commerce of that town ; so that it may now be reckoned the second town in Cheshire for consequence, and probably superior to Chester itself in population. On this account we shall describe it with some minuteness.

The ground on which it stands is very irregular. The market place and parish church are seated on the summit of a hill, affording a level of considerable extent. This ground consists of a solid rock of soft free-stone, with an extremely steep descent on the north, towards the Mersey, but easy of access on the other sides. Part of the northern side is perpendicular for a height equal to that of the houses, of which a row encircles the base of the hill, having their backs to it, and concealing it from the view of passengers. Some of these houses have apartments hollowed out of the rock, and the appearance of the whole to one who surveys it closely is very singular. On the summit of the rock is an upper row of houses, completely encircling the market-place, which is spacious and convenient. From this central part the town stretches away in different directions, and by the late great increase of buildings has extended on every side into the country. Its particular objects we shall now describe.

Stockport contains two churches of the establishment, four dissenters', and one quakers' meeting. The old or parish church of St. Mary is supposed to have been built 400 or 500 years since. It is a large pile of building, of a soft, red free-stone, similar to that of the rock on which the town stands, which by the force of the weather is so washed and worn, that it has been necessary lately to carry up an additional row of stone to support the steeple. This church has under it four chapels of ease; and by the improvements of the town and country the value of the living is so greatly increased, as to be reckoned worth at least £.1200 per annum. The present rector is the Rev. Charles Prescott, an active magistrate, and very useful member of society. The parsonage house at which he resides is at the top of a hill ascending from the church, and is a large, handsome building in the midst of a

garden. It overlooks the whole town and surrounding country, and enjoys a pleasing view of the windings of the Mersey at the bottom of the hill.

St. Peter's church, consecrated in 1768, was built by Peter Wright, Esq. and endowed by him with £.200 from several estates in Cheshire. It stands on a hill on the west side of the town. The patronage is vested in Henry O. Wright, Esq. of Mottram St. Andrew. Both the churches are furnished with organs; the new church with a very fine one.

There is a grammar-school in Stockport, founded in 1487 by the Goldsmith's company in London, and endowed by Edmund Shaw, citizen of London, with £.10 per annum, which is since, by allowances from the town, advanced to £.36. It is now filled by the Rev. Mr. Hoyle.

There are four bridges in and near the town. The old bridge crossing the Mersey on the Manchester road, called the Lancashire bridge, has each end built upon rock, and stands very high above the water, a necessary circumstance in a river subject to such sudden and violent swells as the Mersey is in the upper parts of its course. Further to obviate the danger of inundations, it is supposed that the rock here has been cut deeper and wider, which is rendered probable by the marks of tools upon it. Directly from this bridge the road to Manchester rises up a steep and difficult ascent; but this inconvenience will be remedied in a new turnpike road now making, which will make a sweep round the hill. About half a mile down the river is Brinksway-bridge, lately built on the Cheadle road. Up the river, a short distance from Lanca-



shire-bridge, is Portwood-bridge, leading to Portwood, a new and thriving village on the Lancashire side of the Mersey; and one mile from Stockport, on the Mottram road, is the New Bridge, built about forty years since, which is a noble structure, making a fine appearance from the river. It consists of a single arch, 210 feet in width, thirty-one feet seven inches high, and sixteen feet thick. Near the old bridge is the very ancient town residence of the Ardens, now the property of John Arden, Esq. It is built of wood and plaister, and being kept in good repair, has a venerable appearance.

Stockport is chiefly supplied with water in the old part of the town by open springs rising in Barn-fields, which are considerably higher than the market-place; these are collected into a reservoir behind St. Peter's church, and from thence carried by pipes to different parts of the town, as well as into the houses on the rocks in the market-place.

We shall now say something of the progress of trade to which this town owes its flourishing condition.

In Stockport were erected the first mills for winding and throwing silk, on a plan procured from Italy; and the persons concerned in the silk factories were reckoned the principal people in the place; but on the decline of this trade, the machinery was applied to cotton spinning; and the different branches of the cotton manufacture are now the chief staple of the town. The people of Stockport first engaged in the spinning of reeled worst, then in weaving checks, and lastly in fustians; and they were so ingenious as to attempt muslins, which were introduced about ten years since upon the invention of the machines called mules, whereby the thread was drawn finer and spun softer than that for worst.

The

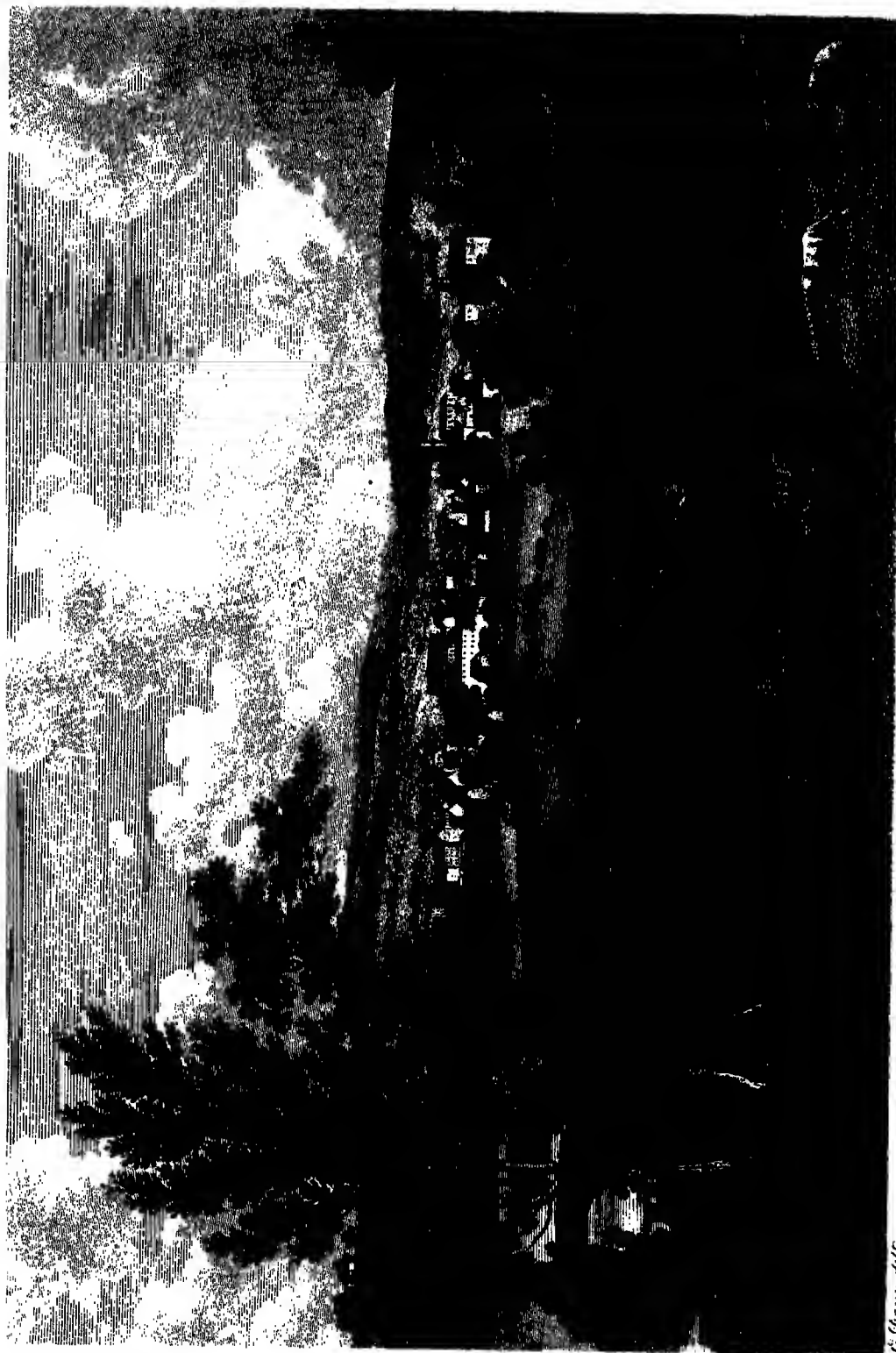
The manufacturers here, with this advantage, produced a species of flowered mullin with borders for aprons and handkerchiefs, by casting a coarse shoot for the figures, and trimming of the float by scissars neatly before bleaching; so that the figure was a good imitation of needle work. Weaving fustians has extended from thence over Chendale, Gatley, and Northenden, where a few checks or furnitures had been woven before. The cotton trade at Stockport is now so considerable, that besides a large number of cotton spinning shops, there are twenty-three large cotton factories, four of them worked by steam engines. The making of hats is likewise a considerable branch of employment.

The weekly market of Stockport is on Friday. A great quantity of corn and oat-meal are sold at it, and it is accounted the best market for cheese in the county. There are four yearly fairs; viz. two in March, one on May-day, and one on the 25th of October.

The police of the town is conducted by one residing justice of the peace, two constables, four churchwardens, and three overseers of the poor.

The population has of late years been amazingly on the increase, so that before the war, houses could not be built fast enough for the demand. The only documents we have for its present state are the following. In the year 1794 there were, at the old church, 149 marriages, 415 christenings, and 600 burials: the latter number is probably nearly that of all the deaths in the town; and, even upon the supposition of the year being an unhealthy one, would imply a population of about 15,000 persons. In the late assessment of men for the navy, Stockport raised twenty men, its *rated* houses being estimated at 1358.





Chapman del.

Lower slope

We have before observed how difficult it is to establish a proportion between the taxed and excused houses; but from the manner in which Stockport is peopled, it is probable that the allowance for non-rated houses should be as high as in almost any manufacturing town—perhaps an equality with the rated houses. Into this account are not taken the hamlets of Heaton-Norris, and Portwood, on the Lancashire side of the river, of which the former is reckoned to contain 170 houses, the latter about 100. The extension of the town is very great, as well on the Macclesfield and Cheadle sides, as on the Manchester. The hill to the west, on which St. Peter's church is built, is now almost covered with buildings.

A branch from the Manchester and Ashton canal, which is to come to the top of the high ground on the Lancashire side of the river, is nearly finished. Its use to such a populous and trading place cannot but be very great.

The annexed view of Stockport was taken in 1793 from Brinksway Bank. Brinksway-bridge is on the left, and behind it part of Lancashire. In the front is the town. The round tower in the centre is on a level with the market-place; it is called the Castle, and is a large cotton work. To the right of it is the old church, and still further to the right the new church. In the back ground on the right is the noted hill called Wernerth Low, which is pasture to the top: across it is the old road to Mottram, and from behind it comes down the Mersey. From the spot whence the view was taken, we distinctly see up the valley between the two hills. The Woodhead, where the light breaks in, is sixteen miles distant.

The land in the neighbourhood of Stockport is chiefly pasture, and in general very good, supplying the town plentifully with milk and butter. It lets, however, at a very high rate; and the land sold for building before the war brought such prices as were never known.

Very lately, a spring of mineral water, appearing to come from a coal mine or bed of iron stone, was discovered near the town. It was reported to be a cure for weak eyes, and was for a time frequented by great numbers of people, well and ill, some of whom drank the water. About this time the jaundice became very epidemical in and about Stockport, and this was by some imputed to the use of the mineral water; in consequence of which it came to be entirely neglected.

Between Stockport and the New-bridge, a very extensive cotton factory was lately erected at a large expence by Mr. Doxon. The water is brought to it from the Mersey above the New-bridge by means of a subterraneous tunnel, and in summer it takes every drop of the water, to the great surprize of the traveller, who passes over a vast arch which seems thrown over a channel perfectly dry. The erection of this work has caused a number of dwelling houses for the workmen to be built, which form a street on the road side.

On the left, about two miles further, upon the bank of the Tame, stands *Harden-hall*, the old family residence of the Ardens, and now the property of John Arden, Esq. It is said to have been once occupied by John of Gaunt, but it is now no more than a farm house. It is surrounded by a moat, kept in good condition. The building is of a Gothic design, composed of a centre and two wings, making the figure of an H. The centre part on the ground floor is all one room, very large,





*H. S. Rogers del.*

VIEW OF HARDEN HALL.

*H. S. Rogers del.*



large, awkward, and high. The windows are large, but give little light. The walls are wainscotted to the ceiling. A few old-fashioned chairs, with worked seats, are left in the room, and it is decorated with several old portraits, but none of them good ones. The upper rooms are small. The house stands on the brow of a steep hill. At the back of it is a watch tower, which, with the whole of the building, is in good repair, though the date of its erection is 1500 and odd. The annexed view was taken in 1793.

*Denton*, a long, straggling village on the Lancashire side of the Tame, one mile from Harden-hall, has increased much of late, and is principally occupied by hatters, cotton-spinners, and colliers.

On the western side of Stockport, at three miles distance, is *Cheadle*, a neat and pleasant village on the Mersey, having an ancient parish church. Its manor formerly went in two portions, one to the family of Savages, the other to the Bulkeleys.

About an equal distance on the eastern side of Stockport is *Chadkirk*, where is an ancient chapel, in a most romantic and sequestered situation. At the back is a half round of high bank cloathed with wood, concealing it from view on that side. Part of the bank is now planted with fruit trees forming an orchard. The land in front, to the river, is rich pasture, divided by beautiful hedges kept in nice order. Only one house is to be seen near the chapel, though there are many in the neighbourhood. By the river side is a large printing ground, one of the oldest in these parts. Somewhat lower down is *Otterfoc-bridge*, with a number of houses adjoining.

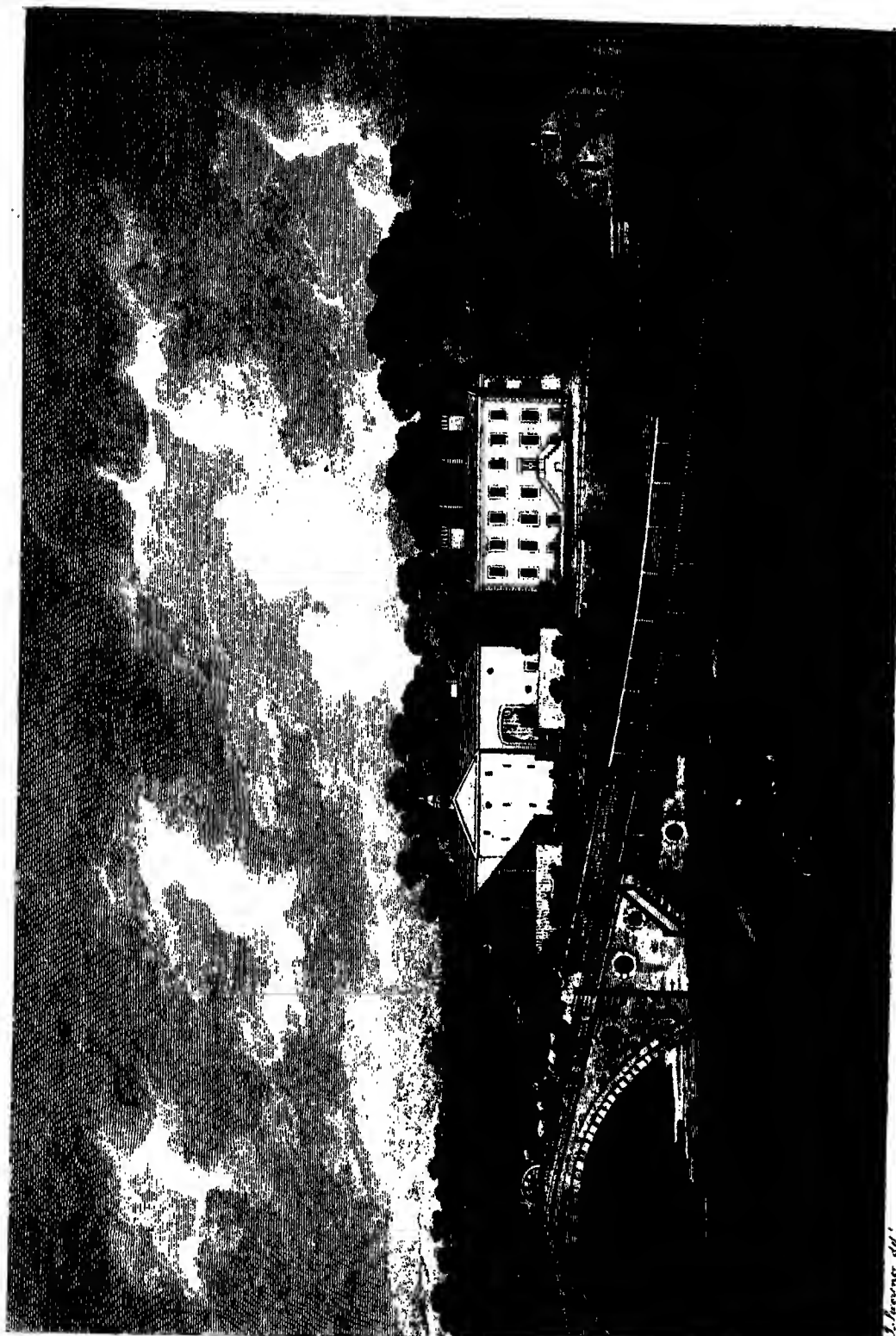
*Marple-hall*, an extensive building, is in this neighbourhood, celebrated for having been the residence of President Bradshaw, where he lived a considerable time in retirement. It is now the property and in the occupation of Mrs. Isherwood.

Near the commencement of the eastern horn of Cheshire, which runs up into the wild country bordering on Yorkshire and the Peak of Derbyshire, is *Hyde Chapel*, or, as it is now called, *Gee Cross*. The chapel is a dissenting place of worship. About twenty-five years ago there was only one house besides; now the place looks like a little town, and forms a continued street for nearly a mile. Near it is *Red Pump-street*, a new village lately built by Mr. Sidebottom.

*Hyde-hall*, the seat of George Hyde Clarke, Esq. a branch of the Clarendon family, is pleasantly situated opposite to Denton, on the Cheshire side of the Tame, upon a rising ground, having gardens sloping down to the water's edge. The building is an ancient hall with a new front. Adjoining to it are extensive stables and other offices, conveniently planned, and the whole supplied with water by a running spring issuing from a height behind the house. In the house are some good paintings, among which is an original whole length of the great earl of Clarendon. Betwixt the bridge and the house is a mill for grinding corn, for the use of which, as well as for that of a water engine on the Lancashire side belonging to some valuable coal mines of Mr. Clarke's, is a wear, which throws a broad sheet of water to a considerable depth below, where it has worked a hole many yards deep and wide. The appearance and noise of this cascade have a romantic effect: and the river for half a mile above is made by it to appear like a lake, forming a fine piece of water well stocked with trout and eels. On each side of the

the





Shorewood

Shorewood

the river downwards from the garden are high banks, well wooded, in which the river is lost for some space, and then seen again at a distance in a sheet of water, formed by a wear belonging to Mr. John Arden, for the purpose of another coal-mine engine.

In front of the house, and at a pleasing distance, is a bridge, lately built for the convenience of its owner, and the accommodation of those who frequent his coal pits. It is a neat structure, with a fine arch, and makes a picturesque object from the house. The surrounding land is mostly of a good quality, affording excellent arable, meadow, and pasture. The estate abounds with coal, and will be greatly benefited by the Peak forest canal, which passes at a small distance behind the house. As the Tame flows through the middle of Mr. Clarke's estate, he enjoys a right to the water on both sides. On the whole, the situation of this seat is a very desirable one, being retired and romantic, without much assistance from art. The annexed view was taken in 1794. In the back ground appear the distant hills above Mottram.

DUKINFIELD.—This is a small township and barony in the parish of Stockport. The village is pleasantly situated upon an eminence commanding an extensive prospect over a populous, varied, and plentiful country. Its name in the Anglo-Saxon dialect was *Dockenveldt*. The river Tame separates it from the parish of Ashton-under-Lyne, in Lancashire, on the north and west sides. This river, in the time of the heptarchy, was the boundary of two kingdoms, which will account for the strong out-works of the castle or old hall of Ashton, opposed by equally strong fortifications on this side. These were situated somewhere on the grounds now occupied by the lodge; and the mansion, formerly the seat of the Dukinfield family, thus defended, stood on a

place called the Hall-green. No traces of it remain but the name. The hall now bearing the family name was erected in its stead. This family of Dukinfields have resided here since the time of the Conqueror till of late years, when the estate, by marriage, came into the possession of the late John Astley, Esq. His son, a minor, is now lord of the manor.

*Dukinfield-hall* is an ancient building of a venerable appearance. A chapel of more modern erection forms one wing of it, in which are buried some of the later branches of the Dukinfield family, under large tomb-stones with inscriptions still perfect; but the place itself is only used as a lumber room. The memory of the family is still much respected by the ancient inhabitants. The annexed view of the hall was taken in 1793 from the lower end of a fish pond in its front.

*Dukinfield-lodge*, the new seat built by the late Mr. Astley, is delightfully situated on an eminence above the Tame. It contains a fine octagon room with painted windows. Most of the others are small, but elegant, and are decorated with pictures chiefly by the hand of Mr. Astley, who had been a painter by profession. The whole building was never finished. It has a fine hot-house, and a large open bath with a dressing-room. In the front of the house is a terrace, affording a very pleasing view; and the precipitous rock descending from it has been clothed with evergreens and other trees and shrubs. A fine wood occupies the space between it and the river, through which are cut several retired walks. The seat is now occupied by William Robert Hay, Esq. who married Mr. Astley's widow. Its beauties have given rise to a descriptive piece written by a young poet, Mr. William Hampson,  
and



*Dayes del.*

*Walker sculp.*

VIEW OF DUKINFIELD HALL.



*Dayes del.*

*Walker sculp.*

VIEW OF DUKINFIELD BRIDGE.

*Published July 29. 1794 by J. Stoddart Decadilly*









and published at the request of Mr. Hay and his lady. The annexed view of the Lodge was taken in 1794.

Mr. Astley, upon coming to the estate, among many other improvements, put the roads in it in good repair, and built two good stone bridges across the Tame, one at Staley-bridge, the other leading from the lodge to Ashton; of this last we have given a view, taken from above. At the end of it are two good houses, affording one of the most pleasing situations in the neighbourhood. At this bridge three canals will meet, viz. the Manchester and Ashton, the Peak-forest, and the Huddersfield, the latter of which will pass by a tunnel through a large deep sand bank.

On the summit above Dukinfield-lodge stands a very ancient dissenter's chapel, built of stone, and surrounded with a burying-ground planted with firs. It has a large congregation, noted for fine singers, and was long under the care of the Rev. Mr. Buckley. Here lie buried some of the Dukinfield family. The chapel is a fine station for an extensive prospect, and is itself a striking object from the vicinity. Adjoining to it, Mr. Astley built a large and commodious inn, which used to be much frequented by parties from Manchester. Near to this place he erected a handsome circus of houses for the accommodation of industrious inhabitants, which was filled as soon as finished. The buildings are of brick, and the road divides it into two half circles. From a water engine which he built in the Tame for the use of the lodge, the water is forced up to a reservoir, whence the circus and most of the town is supplied.

Between the lodge and the dissenter's chapel is a neat chapel belonging to the Moravians, furnished with an organ ; and adjoining it is a very extensive range of buildings, once inhabited by an orderly and industrious colony of that fraternity, who carried on a variety of trades and occupations. These buildings were erected at a great expence by the community, under the promise of a renewal of the leases when they should drop, which, in consequence of the estate's going out of the Dukinfield family, became null. Many negotiations were carried on with Mr. Astley for the purpose of accommodating the business upon equitable terms ; but after waiting some years without effect, the society determined on a removal, and accordingly erected their present fine building at Fairfield, of which an account has already been given. Their former settlement at Dukinfield now looks like a deserted village. The chapel is still their property, held by the life of one old man ; and service is performed in it by a resident maintained in the place.

A principal person in conducting the treaty with Mr. Astley was the late Rev. Mr. La Trobe, a person highly respected, not only by his own fraternity, but by the public at large, to whom he was known by many ingenious writings, and by a truly Christian character. On his death the following character of him was printed in the London Chronicle :

“ ON Wednesday evening, Nov. 29, 1786, died, at his house in Fetter-lane, most sincerely lamented, in the 59th year of his age, the Rev. Mr. BENJAMIN LA TROBE. By a large circle of acquaintance, he was known, respected, and esteemed. The goodness of his heart, and the affability of his disposition, endeared him to all his connections. Distinguished in the practice and profession of every Christian virtue,

few





**THE REV<sup>D</sup> BENJAMIN LA TROBE.**

*Born . April 19<sup>th</sup> 1738. Died . Nov<sup>r</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 1786. in the 49<sup>th</sup> Year of his Age*

*London. Pub<sup>d</sup> June 20<sup>th</sup> 1792 by John Stockdale. Piccadilly.*







few men possessed a greater liberality of sentiment, or a more general and extensive knowledge of men and things. His last moments shewed that he knew his Redeemer liveth, and that he could meet him with joy: and thus, after a long and painful illness of nineteen weeks, which he bore with uncommon patience, he died, as he lived, in perfect resignation to the will of his Maker, an ornament to his profession, and a friend to mankind. His death will be a loss to his afflicted family and friends, of which those only who knew his value most can form the idea. In the early part of life he joined the church of the United Brethren, and till his death proved its zealous friend and protector. The truly Christian and benevolent principles of the Brethren were strictly conformable to his own sentiments; and, becoming an indefatigable pastor among them, he proved an useful instrument for many years in promoting the laudable purposes of the Society, both at home and abroad. In a variety of publications, which he carefully superintended for the press, he removed every aspersion against the Brethren, and firmly established their reputation. To sum up his character in few words, he was an honest man, and the fruits of his faithful services, as a minister of the gospel, will long remain an emblem of his worth and integrity."

The annexed portrait of him was, by the favour of Mrs. Hay, taken from an original and excellent painting at Dukinfield-Lodge, executed by Mr. Astley himself, who had a high regard for Mr. La Trobe.

The township of Dukinfield is very valuable, abounding in mines and quarries that yield a considerable revenue. The coal-pits are from 60 to 105 yards in depth, according to the bearing of the strata. Iron ore is found in great abundance, and the smelting of iron seems to have been

been carried on here at a remote period ; for in a field called the *Brun Yorth*, (a provincial pronunciation of Burnt Earth) the scoriæ of iron have been met with in considerable quantity : also the ore in one of the mines has been found wanting, while the other strata remained in their regular position. Among Mr. Astley's projects was that of the erection of an iron foundry upon the estate, which, from the number of hands employed, greatly increased its population. But after a great deal of money spent in building works and houses, he gave up his concern in it, and let it to a company at Manchester, who likewise, after a short trial, abandoned it: the foundry was then pulled down, and a large cotton factory is erected in its place, the wheel of which is turned by the same stream. It is the property of Mr. Ollivant of Manchester. Above the bridge is another work of the same kind. The cotton trade introduced here, while it affords employment to all ages, has debilitated the constitutions and retarded the growth of many, and made an alarming increase in the mortality. This effect is greatly to be attributed to the pernicious custom, so properly reprobated by Dr. Percival and other physicians, of making the children in the mills work night and day, one set getting out of bed when another goes into the same, thus never allowing the rooms to be well ventilated. The length of life must formerly have been remarkable here, if we may judge by the following complaint of shortness of days, in an epitaph on a person aged seventy-one buried in the chapel-yard :

All ye that do behold this stone,  
 Pray think how *quickly* I was gone ;  
 Make haste, repent, no time delay,  
 Left Death *as soon* snatch you away.

The number of families in this town in 1794, was 252.





One mile from hence is *Newton Moor*, under which coals have been got for ages at different depths. The water is pumped out and the coals raised by steam engines, which are now generally taking place of the former horse-machines. On one side of the moor is a new-built row of houses inhabited by weavers, called *Muslin-street*, erected from the savings of their industry.

Round many of the old coal pits hereabouts, where nothing else would grow, Mr. Astley planted fir trees, which have thriven well, and now form little woods, which have a pleasing appearance, and in time may be profitable—a practice worthy of imitation!

The greater part of the Dukinfield estate is good pasture and meadow land, rich as well above as below ground. The manure is principally lime, with marl on the lighter grounds. The Peak-forest canal passing through it will be of great advantage. The inhabitants are principally supplied with provisions from the Ashton market.

#### MOTTRAM IN LONGDENDALE PARISH.

THIS parish comprehends all the remaining part of the north-eastern extremity of Macclesfield hundred. It consists of the parochial town of Mottram, and a number of small villages and hamlets, and contains one chapel of ease, that of Wood-head, besides the parish church. Mottram, with a considerable part of the neighbourhood, and the extensive moors up Longdendale, belong to the Hon. Wilbraham Tollemache, brother to the earl of Dysart. As lord of the manor he holds a court leet by his steward, at the court-house in Mottram, to which the tenants are summoned to pay their rents.

Mottram is situated twelve miles from Manchester and seven from Stockport, on a high eminence one mile to the west of the Mersey, from which river the ground begins to rise: half the way being so steep as to make it difficult of access. It forms a long street well paved both in the town and to some distance on the roads. It contains 127 houses, which are for the most part built of a thick flag stone, and covered with a thick, heavy slate, of nearly the same quality, no other covering being able to endure the strong blasts of wind which occasionally occur. Of late, many houses in the skirts of the town are built with brick. About fifty years ago, the houses were few in number, and principally situated on the top of the hill, adjoining the church-yard, where is an ancient cross, and at a small distance the parsonage house, now gone much to decay, and occupied by working people. It is only of late years that the town has had any considerable increase, which has been chiefly at the bottom of the hill, but some latterly on the top. Many of the houses are occupied by shop-keepers of various kinds, for the accommodation of the town and neighbourhood, to which it serves as a sort of market. There are also eight public houses, which, with twenty-eight more in the vicinity, are certainly many more than can be wanted, and form no small nuisance by the encouragement they afford to tippling and idleness. The cotton trade is the principal source of employment to the young people in the town, and the surrounding district. Within a small circuit in this neighbourhood there are twelve large cotton machines worked by water, besides a great number of smaller ones, turned by horses, or by small streams.

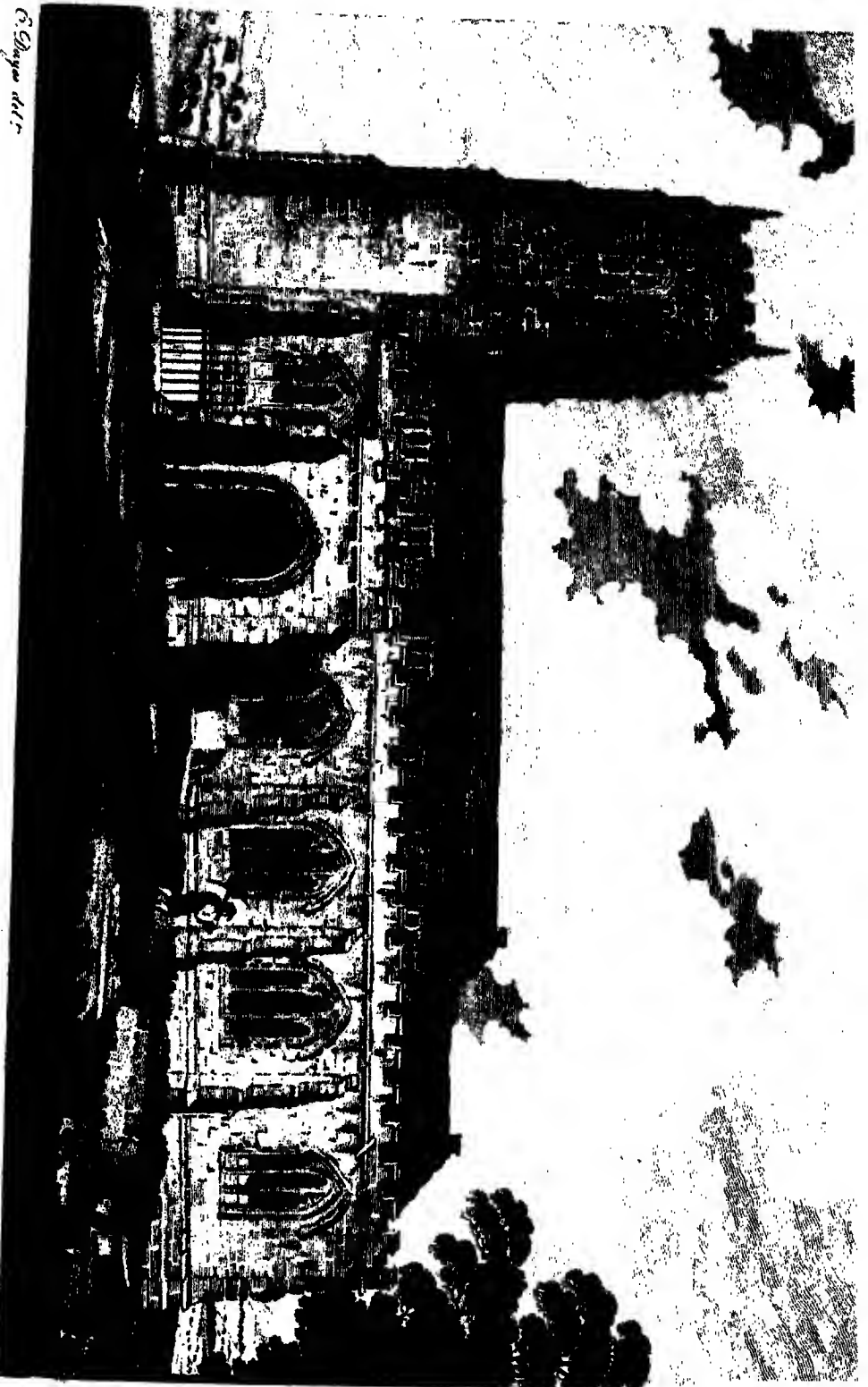
The church of Mottram is a large stately building, of immemorial antiquity, of which the annexed view is an exact representation. It is built of a coarse, grey stone, full of small pebbles or flints, of a  
most

*C. Dwyer del.*

VIEW OF NOTERAM CHURCH.

*From the North.*

*A. Newman sculp.*







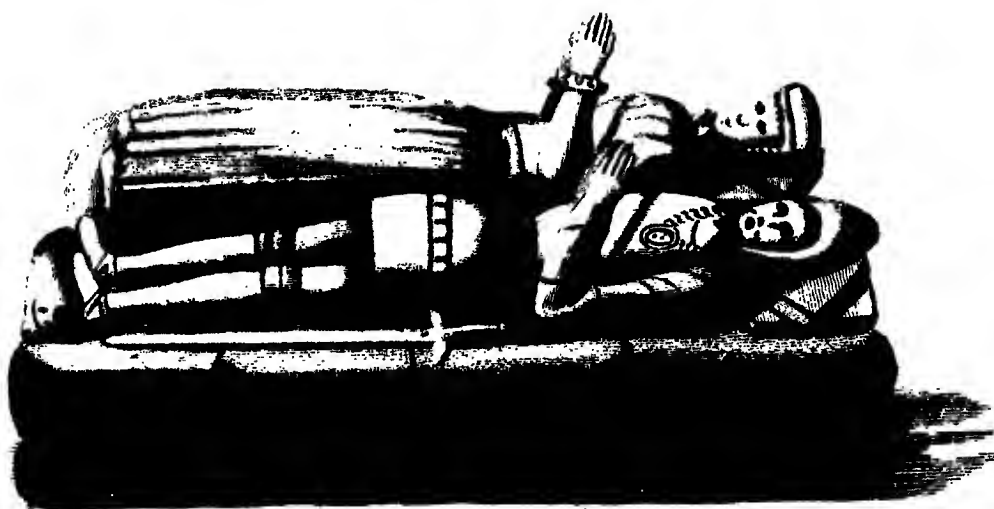




*W. P. del.*

*Spence sculp.*

VIEW OF A COTTAGE AT ROE-CROSS.



*J. Barrett del.*

RALPH STEALEY & his WIFE.

most durable quality, every stone being as perfect as when first laid in. The stone is supposed to have come from a rock called Tinfell-Norr, which is of a similar quality. It can be easily cut in the quarry, but becomes nearly as hard as flint when exposed to the air.

In the church is a very ancient and rude monument, called old Roe and his wife. The figures have their hands elevated as at prayer. He is in armour, with a pointed helmet, -a collar of S. S. about his neck, and a sword by his side. The dress of both is that of the 15th century, and each has an animal at the feet. There is neither date nor inscription on the monument, and many fabulous stories concerning them are handed down by tradition among the inhabitants. But Mr. Thomas Barrett, of Manchester, (who made the drawing for the annexed plate in August 1794) conjectures the effigies to be those of Ralph Stealey and his wife. Tradition says, that the person interred came the Staley road to Mottram, and stopt at a cross in the way, called Row-cross, probably Road-cross; and Mr. Barrett supposes that all memory relative to the monument being lost except that of this Row-cross, the effigy has derived its name from thence.

There is likewise a fine monument\* of Mr. Serjeant Bretland, having a whole length statue in white marble, on which is the following inscription :

H. S E.  
 Quicquid mortale fuit  
 REGINALDI BRETLAND, A. L. S.  
 Familia non ignobili orti :  
 Virtute, Doctrina, Ingenio Præclari.

\* William Egerton, Esq. of Tatton, who purchased the Bretland estate, pays by way of fine one shilling annually for the cleansing of this monument.

in the parish of Bonebury, near Nantwich, Cheshire. The land is twenty-three Cheshire acres, and lets for £.25 yearly.—There is also a donation of £.5 yearly to the school, which is paid from an estate in Romily, in Chadkirk, in the parish of Stockport. It was left by one Robert Hyde, of Catten-hall, in the county of Chester, grandson of John Hyde, late dean rural of Macclesfield. He married Catherine, only daughter of John Bretland, of Thornecliff-hall, in this parish. He died July 24, 1684, and was buried in this church.

There is also belonging to the school a house in Manchester, which lets for £.14 10s. yearly, subject to leys, taxes, and repairs. It was purchased in 1751 from timber which was sold from the estate in Haughton. The whole salary is £.44 10s. yearly; leys, taxes, and the repairs above-mentioned being deducted. When the school was first built, and by whom, we cannot learn. It was rebuilt in the year 1670 at the expence of the parishioners and neighbouring inhabitants.

Mottram is supplied with water by springs. There is one fine well at the very top of the hill, and two others on different sides of it, from whence pipes might be conveyed to the lower parts of the town at a small expence. Most of the hills in this neighbourhood have springs on the sides, and some on the tops, all of which are of soft water.

Formerly there was not sufficient business in Mottram for one butcher: but few sheep were killed; and seldom more than one cow in a week, except at the wake, which festival is to this time kept up, with all the ceremony of dressing up rush carts, and strewing the church and pews with rushes. At present the town affords a tolerable livelihood for five butchers, and not a week passes without the slaughter of sheep and oxen, which

which are chiefly brought from Huddersfield, Barnsley, and Sheffield. Tea has almost expelled the good old dish of the country, thick porridge, though this is still continued in some families, who find it makes a much more substantial breakfast, and, as they say, “ wears better.” Oat cakes, leavened and baked thick, are the principal bread of the place, though wheaten loaves are also common.

The gradual increase of population in this parish may be seen in the following extract from the register. It is to be observed, that every year some christenings and burials from other parishes are entered, and sometimes a considerable number. Perhaps these may have been balanced by those going out of the parish.

Year.	Marr.	Christ.	Bur.	Year.	Marr.	Christ.	Bur.
1745	22	57	40	1786	48	218	78
1750	26	76	80	1787	55	202	146
1755	23	80	54	1788	45	214	97
1760	19	86	43	1789	32	177	102
1765	30	77	48	1790	54	226	105
1770	31	109	68	1791	37	209	140
1775	40	124	95	1792	46	229	176
1780	40	162	62	1793	41	222	131
1785	46	182	82	1794	24	130	136

From the summit of the hill in Mottram is a delightful prospect up Longdendale to the Wood-head, including the beautiful windings of the Mersey, with the high Derbyshire hills on the east, gradually rising from it, among which are scattered the villages of Hadfield, Padfield, Whitfield, and Charlesworth; and on the west the Cheshire hills, which as well as the Derbyshire arc, with the villages Tintwistle and:

and Arnfield, pastured to their tops. The valley is tolerably well wooded with trees of various kinds, but rather stunted in their growth. On the other side are extensive prospects into Lancashire, and as far as the Welch mountains. Notwithstanding the elevated situation of Mottram, it is surrounded by eminences much higher, from which the church and town are viewed far below, and as if in a deep valley. The principal of these hills are Charlesworth-neck, Mouselow-castle, Werneth Low, Tinsell Norr, Wild-bank, and Harrop-edge. The latter affords a peculiarly fine prospect of the surrounding country. From the bottom of this hill, at Row-crofs, was taken, in 1793, the annexed view of Mottram. The sharp-pointed hill in the back-ground is Charlesworth-neck, which gradually rises about a mile and a half from the Mersey, and extends to the right for a considerable distance. At Row-crofs is an ancient favourite cottage of which a view is given. Near this place is a copperas work.

On the summit of Mottram-hill is a neat stone house called *Whitegate-house*, built and occupied by Mr. Solomon Lowe. Near it, his son has built a cotton factory in a deep valley, concealed from the sight by an oak wood. From Whitegate-house is a steep descent of near a mile to *Broad-bottom-bridge*, which crosses the Mersey, in a most delightful and romantic situation. The bridge was built in 1683. Both its ends rest on rock. The arch is a fine one, built with stone, and kept in good repair. The annexed view was taken in 1793 from below the bridge. In the back ground is seen a large cotton factory on the Derbyshire side of the river, lately erected by Messrs. Kelsall and Marsland. This pile of building has much injured the picturesque beauty of the view, concealing a fine wood, in which the river loses itself. The spot almost equals Matlock in its romantic scenery. The

*E. Dwyer del.*



*E. West sculp.*

VIEW OF NOTT RAN.





Chicago 1887



St. William's

VIEW OF BRAD-BOTTOM BRIDGE







*Spencer Webb*

VIEW OF CAT TOR

*C. J. Lloyd del.*

Cat Torr on the Cheshire side, and the well-wooded rocks on the Derbyshire, with the river hurrying between, over its rugged and rocky bottom, afford a solemn and striking spectacle.

The *Cat Torr*, of which a view is annexed, is a perpendicular precipice of eighty feet, overhung with vast rocks at the top, on which, and on the sides, oak trees grow, threatening destruction to all below. Its face consists of various strata of rock, coal, or slaty matter, and freestone at bottom, all laid as regularly as by the hand of the mason. The height of the summit of Mottram-hill above that of the Cat Torr is about 450 feet. Below the bridge is Broad-bottom, a house belonging to Mr. Bostock, in a very lonely, but pleasing situation, surrounded by fine meadow ground, which is partly encircled by the Mersey.

Before we quit the town of Mottram, we shall say something in commemoration of two of its natives.

Mr. *Lee*, well known as a stock-broker under the Royal Exchange, was born at Mottram, and owed his success in life in great measure to the following circumstance. When a very young boy, he went with a companion into a neighbouring wood in search of walking sticks. Coming to a plantation of young ash trees, they made free with them by cutting as many as they chose. On returning home they were met by a person, who having interrogated them about the manner in which they came by the sticks, pronounced, "that they would both certainly be hanged or transported." This put them into such a fright, that laying down their loads, they fled the country, and the end of their ramble was London. Lee, being a shrewd, sensible young lad, made his way from one station to another, till he became partner in a stock-bro-

king house, in which he rose to be head. With great reputation he acquired a handsome fortune, of which he was in his life-time extremely liberal to his countrymen and relations, giving away hundreds at once, and sometimes to those who did not make the best use of it. He died some years ago, leaving the principal part of his fortune to his two sons and relations, with legacies to his friends, and his business to the late Mr. John Bruckshaw.

Much more distinguished for the endowments of his mind, though much less by the favours of fortune, was *Laurence Earnshaw*, born at Mottram soon after the commencement of this century, at a cottage on the high road to Wednescough-green, with fir trees in front, which is looked upon by the neighbourhood with almost as much veneration as that in which Sir Isaac Newton was born is by his admirers. From accounts of this extraordinary man in the 57th Vol. Part II. of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, communicated by Mr. Josiah Beckwith, of Rotherham, and Mr. J. Holt, of Walton, near Liverpool, we shall copy some of the most remarkable particulars.

*Lawrence Earnshaw* was put apprentice when a boy to a taylor, and afterwards to a clothier; but neither of these employments suiting his genius, after serving both for eleven years, he put himself for a short time to a clock-maker, one Shepley, of Stockport. By the force of native abilities, with the very little instruction such an education could give him, he made himself one of the most universal mechanists and artists ever heard of. He could have taken wool from the sheeps' backs, manufactured it into cloth, made that cloth into cloaths, and made every instrument necessary for the clipping, carding, spinning, reeling, weaving, fulling, and dressing, and making it up for wear,

with

with his own hands. He was an engraver, painter, and gilder; he could stain glass and foil mirrors; was a black-smith, white-smith, copper-smith, gun-smith, bell-founder, and coffin-maker; made and erected sun-dials; mended fiddles; repaired, tuned, played upon, and taught, the harpsichord and virginals; made and mended organs, and optical instruments; read and understood Euclid; and in short, had a taste for all sorts of mechanics, and most of the fine arts. Clock-making and repairing was a very favourite employ to him; and he carried so far his theory and practice of clock-work, as to be the inventor of a very curious astronomical and geographical machine, containing a celestial and terrestrial globe, to which different movements were given, representing the diurnal and annual motions of the earth, the position of the moon and stars, the sun's place in the ecliptic, &c. all with the greatest correctness. One of these machines curiously ornamented was sold to the earl of Bute for £.150. All the complicated calculations, as well as the execution of this great work, were performed by himself. He likewise, about 1753, invented a machine to spin and reel cotton at one operation, which he showed to his neighbours and then destroyed, through the generous, though mistaken, apprehension, that it might take bread from the mouths of the poor. This was previous to all the late inventions of machinery by which the cotton manufactory has been so much promoted. He also contrived a simple and ingenious piece of mechanism for raising water from a coal-mine. He was acquainted with that equally self-taught genius, the celebrated Brindley, and when they occasionally met, they did not soon part. Earnshaw was possessed of an extraordinary degree of sobriety, never drinking a gill of ale for years after he was grown to manhood. His mien and countenance were far, at the first view, from betokening quick parts, but rather announced stupidity; but when animated by conversation

they at once brightened up. He had a good flow of words, and clearly explained his subject in the provincial phrase and dialect of his country. He had a sick wife and expensive family, so that, notwithstanding all his trades and ingenuity, he lived and died poor. He died about the year 1764. One of his sons still resides in this town.

The neighbourhood of Mottram was formerly famous for the number of halls occupied by their owners, who resided on their own estates, most of which are now in the possession of farmers. A few of them we shall mention.

*Hollingworth-hall*, or, as it is now generally called, the Old Hall, is a very ancient, strong, stone building, situated by the side of the moors about half a mile from Mottram. It is surrounded with gardens and excellent meadow land, and enjoys a pleasant prospect. It still belongs to the family of that name; but is now in the occupation of Henry Cardwell, Esq. a very useful and active member of society.

Somewhat further, on the edge of the same moors, stood *Thorncliffe-hall*, belonging to the family of Bretlands. It was the most considerable building in these parts; but a few years ago much of it was taken down, and the materials sold. A considerable pile is still standing, converted into a farm-house. The estates belonging to this family were large; and the extensive range called Werneth-Low was a part of them. The whole is now the property of William Egerton, Esq. of Tatton, by purchase.

Still further, on the very boundary of the moors, is another *Hollingworth-hall*, the property and residence of John Whittle, Esq. It is a



large stone building, with spacious rooms in the antique style, and provided with extensive and commodious out-houses.

Half a mile from Mottram, on the road to the Wood-head, are *Wednescough-green* and *Treacle-street*. These two places have of late increased very much, owing to the land's being freehold, and sold for building on. It is chiefly the property of Mr. Egerton, of Tatton.

On the other side of Mottram, half a mile on the Stockport road, is *Hatterley*, which contains a few straggling farm houses, and a small hamlet called *Brittomley-mill*.

Two miles from Mottram, on the same road, is the very ancient village of *Tintwistle*, or *Tinsell*, containing thirty-five houses and a dissenting chapel. It is entirely built of thick free-stone flag, got on the spot. Tradition reports this to have been a borough in former times.

Half a mile to the left is *Arnfield*, a small village of straggling houses, built like the former, and probably as ancient, there being leases in some of the families dated about 500 years since, and couched in a few lines. It is built on the sides of two steep hills parted by a brook, and is the last village adjoining the moors.

Betwixt *Tintwistle* and the Wood-head, stands on the road side *Wood-head Chapel*, surrounded with a small burial ground. It has a single bell to call to service the surrounding inhabitants, who are thinly scattered on the sides of these moors. There is not a house within a considerable distance. The duty is performed by the Rev. Mr. Broadhurst,

hurft, twice a day from the Sunday before Holy Thursday to the middle of October, once a day the rest of the year.

The *Wood-head*, seven miles from Mottram, is a place well known to the weary travellers who have crossed the hills above in their way from Yorkshire. It consists of three public and a few private houses. The Mersey even at this place is a very powerful stream in winter, pouring down with great rapidity, and sometimes overflowing the meadows on its banks. It rises from different springs about one mile from the inn called Salter's-brook-house, within the West-Riding of Yorkshire, and rather more than four miles above the Wood-head, and it is joined in its course to Mottram by several rivulets which take their rise from these barren hills and moors, large tracts of which scarcely yield a blade of grass for the half-starved sheep.

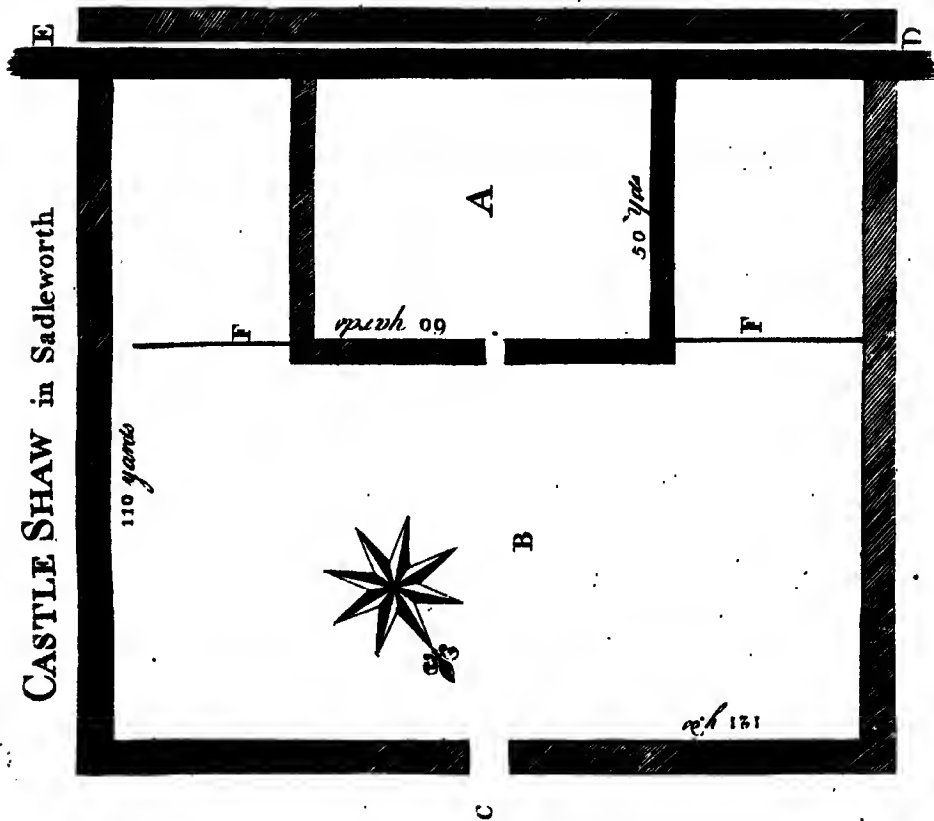
From the Mersey to *Bretland-edge* is a nearly continued ascent of three miles, on the high road to Huddersfield. On the top of the edge is a most extensive view into Yorkshire, all fertile land except the range of moors on which you stand. On the top of this hill where the waters take opposite directions is the boundary between Cheshire and Yorkshire.

The few inhabitants of the Wood-head cultivate small farms with extensive sheep walks. The public houses depend upon travellers, few of whom pass without calling; and, indeed, it would be imprudent for them to neglect feeding their horses here, as they have no other opportunity of doing it for a considerable distance, especially on ascending to Bretland-edge. From Wood-head an excellent turnpike road has lately been made across the Mersey to Chapel-le-Frith.

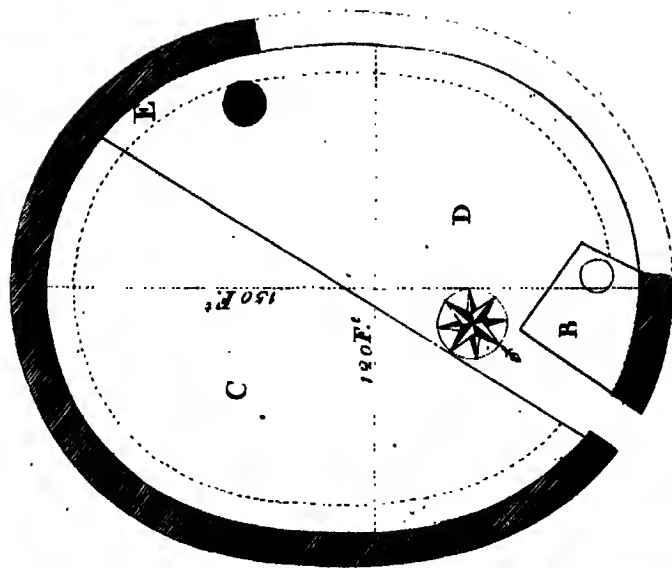
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# CASTLE SHAW in Sadleworth



# BUCTON CASTLE in Micklehurst



*Fig. 41. New Englander's Building*

This neighbourhood is not without its antiquities, chains of posts having been anciently established on the heights for the purposes of defence or exploration. Of these are some in Yorkshire and Derbyshire, which will be mentioned in their proper places. A remarkable one in the parish of Mottram and county of Chester, is *Buclon-castle*, in Micklehurst, situated on the north-western edge of the great moss called Featherbed-moss, at about an equal distance between Mottram and Saddleworth. It is of an oval form, consisting of a rampart and ditch, and stands on the summit of a high hill, very steep towards the west and south, commanding a view over the south part of Lancashire and the whole of Cheshire, and easterly to the West Nab in Yorkshire. Its plan is seen in the annexed engraving, taken, with its explanation, from an account drawn up by the late Thomas Percival, Esq. and obligingly communicated by Mr. Pickford, of Royton.

## EXPLANATION:

A. The well.

B. Place where the country people dug in 1730, expecting to find treasure.

C. Ruins of buildings, six or seven feet higher than the parade.

D. An inner court or parade.

E. The rampart.

F. The ditch; wanting on the west side, which is the steepest.

The inner slope of the rampart is twenty-seven feet, its perpendicular six feet; outer slope from the top of the rampart to the bottom of the ditch, thirty-five feet; inner slope of the ditch, sixteen feet; depth of the ditch, eight feet; width at bottom, six feet; height of rampart

above the level of the ground, eight feet ; breadth of gateway sixteen feet.

The land in the neighbourhood of Mottram is mostly meadow and pasturage. Some wheat and oats are grown, and potatoes are cultivated. Garden vegetables are scarce. The soil is generally of a loamy or clayey nature, and marl is found in several places. The farms are commonly small ; from £.10 to £.30 per annum, few exceed £.50. The smaller ones are let very high ; nor could the tenant pay such prices but for the industry of himself and family, who are in general weavers, hatters, or cotton spinners, and sometimes all in the same house. The chief article of the farm is a roomy house, and their two or three cows produce milk and butter for family use, with a little to spare for making up the rent. On the commencement of the present war and failure of trade, many of the small farmers were ruined, and their little all sold off. The old farm houses are nearly all built of stone, with heavy flag-slate roofs.

The climate is cold and inclement, owing to the currents of wind from the hills, and the vast quantity of rain which falls, keeping the low grounds for a great part of the year a perfect puddle. The roads are seldom dry except in July and August. It almost daily happens that persons on the top of a hill are deluged with rain, while those in the valley are dry ; and, on the other hand, that clouds sail up a valley and drench it, while the surrounding eminences enjoy fair weather.

The manure for land is chiefly lime, of which a considerable quantity is required ; and unless the tenant can afford to lay it on, his herbage becomes sour and turns to rushes. The lime is brought from Chapel-le-Frith on the backs of small Welch horses, which

run up and down the hills with as sure a foot as goats, and have little other food than what they pick up by the road side on their return, while the drivers take refreshment. The lime generally costs at Mottram 1*s.* 6*d.* per load, which is only a small sack. The Peak-forest canal, which will come within four miles of Mottram, is expected to reduce the price nearly one half; and there are some thoughts of having a small canal from the above to run up Longdendale, upon Dr. Anderson's plan, which may be made for less than a turnpike road. This would be of the greatest utility to the country, as it would promote the cultivation of the moors to a great extent, and would cause a demand of its mineral products, of which little is now got, on account of the expence of land carriage.

The vast rock at Tinfell-Norr consists of solid blocks of the durable stone already described as the material of Mottram church. It is well calculated for uses in which beauty is not the object, as ordinary buildings, kirb stones, and posts, &c. Under Bretland-edge is a quarry of flag stone, lately discovered by Mr. Boar of the Wood-head, who has obtained a lease of the same. The stone is got six feet in length, and proportionally broad. Near the top of the hill is a good stone for building, softer and of better quality than any in the neighbourhood, and nothing prevents its use but the difficulty of conveyance.

Coals of an indifferent quality are occasionally got at Mottram, and on the Derbyshire side in different places.

On the top of Tinfell-Norr, Wood-head, and other high hills, are deep and thick peat mosses, in which fuel is got by the poor, and trees are occasionally found in situations where it would certainly be scarcely

possible to make them grow at present. These peat bogs have sometimes been set on fire in the summer, and have long continued to burn in one grand body of flame.

During the summer, men, women, and children are constantly employed in cutting and burning fern on the sides of the moors, the ashes of which are sold to the soap-boilers.

Cranberries and cloudberry grow on these moors, the latter of which (*Rubus Chamæmorus*) is a delicate fruit, little known and rare. Whinberries grow in great abundance about Tinsell-Norr, and the surrounding rocks, which are in many places covered with stunted oak trees, which do not attain a greater height than six feet. Moor-game or red grouse frequent these moors in great numbers, and the different lords of the manors are at considerable expence to preserve them from poachers.

Salmon swim a great way up the Mersey, and their young, called *brood*, and already mentioned under Manchester, run up the rivulets among the moors to an incredible height, and are easily caught in the shallow water by persons skilled in groping. Trout is also plentiful in these streams, and is occasionally sold at sixpence per pound. They are generally caught with a rod and line. These, and a few eels, are the only fish in this part of the Mersey.



## III.—D E R B Y S H I R E.

## HIGH PEAK HUNDRED.

## G L O S S O P P A R I S H.

THIS comprehends a large tract of mountainous country in the north-west angle of the Peak. The living is a vicarage of the clear value of 42*l.* 0*s.* 11½*d.*; the duke of Norfolk is patron. It contains the chapelries of *Mellor*, of *Hayfield*, and of *Charlestown*; also the liberty of *Chinley*, and several other smaller hamlets. The houses in Glossop and part of the parish have been numbered to 333; the families in the remainder, at 788. The inhabitants of this parish are supported by the manufactures of cotton and wool. In the part bordering on Yorkshire, a considerable quantity of fine woollen cloth is made. In the southern and western parts, the principal employment is spinning and weaving of cotton.

The town of Glossop is three miles east of Mottram, and stands on a rising bank, at the foot of which runs a small stream, that soon joins the Mersey below. It is a small village in which is a very ancient church: the living is now occupied by the Rev. Christopher Howe. The yard has a venerable appearance from the number of railed-in tombs of families of consequence. In the church is a very ancient mo-

nument similar to that of old Roe and his wife at Mottram, and a modern one of the late Joseph Hague, Esq. of Park-hall. This is a fine marble bust by Bacon, and cost four hundred guineas. The following inscription is under the bust on a tablet of marble :

Sacred to the Memory of JOSEPH HAGUE, Esq.  
 Whose Virtues as a Man  
 Were as distinguished, as his character as a merchant :  
 Favoured with the blessings of Providence,  
 He enjoyed the fruits of his industry at an early period ;  
 And by the most indefatigable pursuits in trade,  
 Acquired an immense fortune,  
 Which he distributed with great liberality  
 Amongst his relations in his own life time.  
 He was born at Chunal in the Year 1695,  
 And in 1716 settled in London, where he married Jane, the only  
 Daughter of Edmund Blagge, of Macclesfield, in Cheshire,  
 By whom he had ten sons and two daughters,  
 Who all died in their minority.  
 He built and endowed the Charity School at Whitfield, in 1778,  
 And died at Park Hall in this Parish, the 12th March, 1786,  
 Aged 90 Years ;  
 Leaving the annual Interest of £.1000 towards the cloathing  
 12 poor Men, and 12 poor Women, out of the eight Townships  
 Of GLOSSOP DALE for ever ;  
 Besides other charitable Donations to Glossop  
 And the Chapelry of Hayfield.

Mr. Hague was a wonderful instance of the effects of industry, joined with integrity and perseverance. He was the child of poverty, and began while a young boy with a few pence, to buy and sell small articles, which he carried in a basket, that soon became too bulky, and

he then purchased an ass. From one step to another, the profits of his dealings accumulated in a few years to a large fortune, and he became a very opulent merchant. On the loss of his children, he adopted a family of the name of Doxon, of about seven children, his nephews and nieces, from Padfield, near Glossop, and gave them all good educations, and with it handsome fortunes; some of them are married to the first bankers in Lombard-street, and others reside in Manchester. He divided the greatest part of his fortune amongst his relations during his life-time, while in retirement at Park-hall, near Hayfield; an example of good sense and true generosity, which it would be happy for mankind if persons of property were to imitate, instead of indulging the idle vanity of being recorded as dying worth a vast sum of money, left to persons for whom, perhaps, they never showed the least friendship during their lives!

Glossop lies in one of the deepest vallies in these parts, surrounded on all sides by the highest hills in the Peak, several of which rise a mile and a half from the town. On the top of one of these hills, one mile from Glossop, is a fine round hill called *Mouselow Castle*, on which there probably was formerly a castle or station, being a spot well calculated for such a purpose. It stands very high, and commands a most extensive prospect over the surrounding country. About fifteen years since it was pastured to the top, on which it was plain to be seen that a building had stood, there being deep holes and a quantity of stones. The top occupies a large space of ground. The whole of the hill, as well as the top, is now planted with firs of about ten years standing, and the owner, Mr. Howard, has given it the name of Castle-hill.

On the top of another hill near Glossop is a good slate quarry of the thick flag sort, which supplies the principal part of the surrounding country for a considerable distance.

There are some large cotton factories in this neighbourhood and several small ones.

The land in this valley is chiefly pasture and meadow, and some of it very good.

At a small distance from the town stands an ancient building, formerly called *Royl-hall*, but now changed by the proprietor, Mr. Howard, to *Glossop-hall*. It serves as a retreat during the shooting season of moor-game, of which there is great plenty. Round it are planted large firs, and in front a very extensive hill is covered with firs, of many years growth, through which are pleasant roads. The following lines have long remained on one of the panes of glass at this hall :

Here hills, with naked heads, the tempests meet,  
Rocks at their sides, and torrents at their feet.

This hall and neighbourhood, as well as very extensive moors, are the property of Barnard Howard, Esq. who has resolved to continue planting a considerable part of these moors yearly with firs, which in this district seem to thrive well. As wood in this country is a scarce article, the grown firs are now very valuable, the off branches being valuable for fuel, as there are no coals in this neighbourhood of any consequence.

In this parish are the remains of a very ancient building, called *Melandra Castle*, of which the late Rev. Mr. Watson, of Stockport, has given a description in the 3d volume of the *Archæologia*, part of which we shall transcribe. For a plan of this castle, see p. 138.

“ On the south side of the river Mersey, (or, as some call it, the Edrow) near Wooley-bridge, in the township of Gamesley, and parish of Glossop, in Derbyshire, is a Roman station which no writer has mentioned, nor did any one know, as far as can be informed, that it had been constructed by that people, till July 1771, when I made this discovery. The country people give it the name of *Melandra Castle*; the area of it is called the Castle-yard, and eleven fields adjoining to it are named in old deeds the Castle Carrs.

“ It is situated, like many Roman stations, on moderately elevated ground, within the confluence of two rivers, and was well supplied with good water. Very fortunately the plough has not defaced it, so that the form of it cannot be mistaken. The ramparts, which have considerable quantities of hewn stones in them, seem to be about three yards broad. On two of the sides were ditches, of which part remains, the rest is filled up; on the other sides there are such declivities, that there was no occasion for this kind of defence. On the north-east side, between the station and the water, great numbers of worked stones lie promiscuously, both above and under ground; there is also a subterraneous stream of water here, and a large bank of earth, which runs from the station to the river. It seems very plain that on this, and on the north-west sides, have been many buildings; and these are the only places where they could safely stand, because of the declivity between them and the two rivers.

“ The extent of this station is about 122 yards by 112. The four gates, or openings into it, are exceedingly visible, as is also the foundation of a building within the area, about twenty-five yards square, which in all probability was the prætorium.

“ Very near the east angle, the present tenant of the ground under the duke of Norfolk, found several years ago, as he was searching for stones to build him a house, a stone about sixteen inches long, and twelve broad, which is now walled up in the front of his house, and contains an inscription which I read thus ; *Cohortis primæ Frisianorum Centurio Valerius Vitalis.*”

From these circumstances, Dr. Watson concludes this to have been a sister fort to that of Manchester, which was garrisoned by another part of the Frisian cohort ; and he endeavours to trace the course of the Roman roads leading through it, one of which, from the Roman station at Brough, in Derbyshire, is still used for a good part of the way, being set with large stones in the middle, and having proper drains cut on each side where it runs over mossy grounds. It has the name of the *Doctor's Gate*.

At Melandra was lately found a large sword, and what is more extraordinary, a cannon ball. Tradition reports that there was once under the castle a city or town called Wooley, on the banks of the Mersey, near the bridge of that name. Hearths and ashes have been ploughed up in this place.

A few years ago an act was obtained for the making a new turnpike road, from Buxton to Chapel-in-le-Frith through Hayfield, by Glossop

to the Wood-head. From Chapel-en-le-Frith to the Wood-head it is completed. The road skims along the side of the Derbyshire hills half way betwixt their tops and the Mersey. This road is principally intended for the advantage of those passing to and from Buxton into Yorkshire, instead of the wide circuit through Manchester. It is already much travelled, and will be still more so on its being known. The extension of this road from Buxton to Chapel-en-le-Frith is not yet finished. A new turnpike road passes from Glossop to Mottram, through Hadfield, which by the effects of the cotton trade is much improved of late.

*Charlesworth*, three miles from Glossop, is a long, straggling village of considerable extent, much increased within these few years, principally by the cotton business. The buildings reach nearly to the top of Charlesworth Neck, one of the highest range of hills in this part, extending south-east to a considerable distance. It is a continued range of rocks of free-stone,\* at least as far as seen in the back ground of the view of Mottram. The clouds in front hide the face of the rocks, or, as it is called, the coombs. Near this is *Chisworth*, another small village; and not far from hence are collieries, which supply many of the villages on the Derbyshire side, though the coal is but indifferent.

*Marple Bridge*, is a small village equally divided by the Goyt, part being on the Cheshire, and part on the Derbyshire side of the river, containing about sixty houses. The principal employ of the inhabitants is in the cotton manufacture.

\* Should a canal-branch from the Peak forest up the side of the Mersey to Broadbottom-bridge take place, this stone will find a ready market in the neighbourhood of Stockport, Manchester, &c.

On the Derbyshire side, about a mile from the bridge, Mr. Oldknow has erected the largest cotton mill in this part of the country on the Goyt, turned by a cut from that river ; which of course employs the principal part of the young people in this neighbourhood. Mr. Oldknow has also built, at his own expence, a very fine bridge over the river Goyt, with free-stone got in the quarry at Charlesworth Neck, and faced and finished with a finer sort from the quarries near Buxton.

Near this place, on the Derbyshire side, is a dissenting meeting-house of modern date, to which belongs a numerous congregation. Here is also a very ancient building called *Lower Marple*, and on the Derbyshire side, an ancient family seat of the Shuttleworths, pleasantly situated on a rising ground, now the property of Miss Shaw.

*Mellor* has a chapel of the church of England, round which are only straggling houses.

*Hayfield* is a long, straggling, and considerable village, betwixt Glossop and Chapel-en-le-Frith, on the turnpike road. It has a handsome church with a new steeple just built. The inhabitants are principally clothiers, though the cotton branch of late has gained a small footing. A fine stream of water runs through the village. Near this is *Park-hall*, the seat of the late Joseph Hague, Esq. A magnificent range of stabling has lately been added to it.

### CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH PARISH.

THE living is a donative curacy, of the clear value of 16*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* It has a handsome church, with a fine organ. The number of families in



the parish is 420, chiefly supported by the manufacture of cotton, which has caused a great increase of population. Chapel-le-Frith is a small market-town. About a mile from it is Bank-hall, the seat of Samuel Frith, Esq. At the distance of two miles from the town are some works of a military appearance on a mountain called Comb's-mofs, consisting of entrenchments on the edge of the hill and carried down the declivity ; but no circumstance has been discovered by which the people who formed them could be conjectured. A canal is now cutting from this place to join the canal from Manchester to Ashton-under-Lyne. See p. 132.

The ebbing and flowing well, commonly called *Tideswell*, and reckoned one of the wonders of the Peak, is two miles from Chapel-le-Frith, close to a turnpike road lately made to Sparrow-pit. It is about a yard deep and broad, and rises and falls about three quarters of a yard. The water gushes from several cavities at once for the space of about five minutes, and then subsides again ; and this takes place at uncertain intervals, often several times in a day, or even in an hour, in wet weather, but much more rarely in dry weather.

## TIDESWELL PARISH.

THIS is a vicarage of the clear value of £.32, the dean and chapter of Litchfield patrons. The church is very ancient and large, and much admired by the curious. Tideswell is a small market-town, containing 254 houses, and about 1000 inhabitants. A few hands in it are employed in spinning cotton, but the chief dependence is on the mining business. The hamlet of *Litton* contains about seventy-

four houses, and 348 inhabitants. In the village are about fifty-two stocking frames, and ten jersey combers. *Worm-hill* is another hamlet in this parish, with a chapel. This place had the honour of giving birth to that extraordinary genius, the late Mr. Brindley, so celebrated for planning navigable canals. *Worm-hill* contains about twenty-nine houses. At *Millhouse Dale* are ten houses, and a cotton mill which employs many hands from the neighbouring villages. The rest of the parish of *Tideswell* contains forty-nine houses.

*Monfal-dale* through which the river *Wye* runs in its course between *Tideswell* and *Bakewell*, is one of the most pleasing in *Derbyshire*. It is extremely steep on one side, that on which the road runs, gently ascending on the other, and softened by a rich covering of wood and herbage. Its prevailing character is tranquil beauty. Towards its head two other beautiful dales open into it; and by following the course of the *Wye* up to *Buxton* various romantic scenes offer themselves to the eye.

## EYAM PARISH.

A RECTORY; lady Burlington, duke of Chandos, and Mr. Bathurst, patrons. The liberty of *Eyam* contains about 108 houses, and 918 inhabitants, who are maintained by agriculture and working the lead mines. In *Foxlow* and *Grindlow* are about ninety-four houses; in the *Woodlands*, forty; at *Grindleford*, twenty-four. In the two former places the inhabitants depend upon agriculture, cotton spinning, and working the lead mines; but population is in a very declining state from a failure in the two last branches. When the plague raged in London in 1665, the infection was conveyed in a parcel of clothes

clothes to Eyam, where it broke out in September 1665, and in November 1666, 260 of the inhabitants had died of it. The worthy rector, Mr. Montpeffon, would not quit his flock. He used every argument to persuade his wife to leave the spot, but in vain. She would not forsake her husband, and is supposed to have fallen a victim. They sent away their children. Mr. Montpeffon continued to employ himself in his pastoral office, and preached in a field under a sort of alcove formed by nature in a rock, which place still retains the appellation of *the church*. He survived the visitation, and the entries of deaths from the plague in the parish register are in his hand-writing. In the fields surrounding the town are many remains denoting where tents were pitched; and tombs still exist of large families swept away by the pestilence.\* It ought not to be omitted, that Mr. Robert Standley, the deprived minister of the place, also remained in the village during the whole of this visitation, and performed every good office in his power to the poor sufferers.

## EDENSOR PARISH.

A VICARAGE; the duke of Devonshire, patron. In its liberty are about eighty-five houses; and in the hamlet of *Pilfey* about thirty. Several of the inhabitants meet with employment and support at Chatsworth.

\* Howard on Lazarettos, p. 24.

## BAKEWELL PARISH.

THIS is reckoned the most populous and extensive parish in Derbyshire. It contains nine chapelries, besides several large hamlets. The whole number of houses is 1040. Bakewell is a vicarage; the dean and chapter of Litchfield patrons. The church is built in the manner of cathedrals, and has a cross aisle and a handsome spire. It contains several ancient monuments, the most remarkable of which are dedicated to the families of Vernon and Manners. In the church-yard is an antique stone cross, with several figures of rude sculpture.

Bakewell is a place of great antiquity, and was made a borough by Edward the elder. It is now a small market town, containing about 192 houses and 930 inhabitants. A few years ago a machine for cotton spinning was erected here by Sir R. Arkwright, which affords employment to about 300 hands. A few are employed in the lead mines, and in collecting the fossil productions of the Peak. The curious in natural history will here be much gratified with the complete collection of the fossils of Derbyshire, arranged by the ingenious Mr. White Watson of this town, who by a tablet of his invention has exhibited a view of the strata of the Peak, with the relative position and proportion of the minerals with which it abounds.

*Haddon-hall* stands on a gentle eminence amid thick woods overhanging the Wye, two miles below Bakewell. It is an ancient mansion belonging to the duke of Rutland. It consists of two quadrangular courts, round which the apartments and offices are built; and it is embattled and castellated on every side, so as to afford a perfect specimen of the residence of an English baron in the 15th century. It is now  
entirely



entirely disfurnished, though several of the rooms are still hung with old tapestry. This place was long the seat of the Vernons, a family of distinction during several reigns. After the death of Sir George Vernon, in the reign of Elizabeth, who left two daughters, it came, along with several Derbyshire manors, by marriage into the family of Manners, which continued to reside there during more than a century, but finally quitted it for Belvoir castle. It was formerly surrounded by a park, which is now thrown into enclosures of pasture ground.

*Ashford*, a chapelry in the parish of Bakewell, has a village of the name situated on the Wye. The whole liberty contains about 119 houses and 540 inhabitants. A few persons here are employed in cotton spinning, and about twenty hands in the manufacture of stockings. About fifty years ago a machine was constructed here by a Mr. Watson, for sawing and polishing the marble which is found in great abundance at this village and in the neighbouring country. The scheme did not at first answer to its author; but the present proprietors have made a beneficial concern of it, and carry on business to a considerable extent. The marble manufactured here is not only much in request in this kingdom, but is exported to distant parts.

The chapelry of *Basslow* contains several hamlets. The houses in all are about 202. A large cotton mill in the centre of them gives employment to a number of people of the vicinity.

In *Great Longstone* the manufacture of muslins has been introduced. *Little Longstone*, *Sheldon*, and *Taddington* are other villages in this district, situated in a part of the Peak little cultivated or inclosed. The inhabitants chiefly depend for their support on working in the lead mines.

mines. The same may be said of *Moneyash*. The houses in all these places are about 247.

*Chelmorton* chapelry.—This village stands at the foot of a high eminence, and contains about forty houses. Its inhabitants are partly employed in the lead mines, partly in a manufacture of ribands lately introduced. A barrow or low in the neighbourhood was opened some years ago containing some human skeletons entire.

*Buxton* chapelry.—The part of this town within Bakewell parish contains about seventy-seven houses, and 238 stated inhabitants, the number being much increased in the bathing season.

This place, situated in a hollow, among naked and dreary hills, has been favoured by nature with the possession of one of the most valuable mineral waters in this kingdom, which has rendered it the resort of multitudes of invalids of all ranks, and has decorated it with splendid and commodious buildings. The following account of its waters and baths has been drawn from the best authorities.

*Buxton waters and baths*.—There is little doubt that the warm baths of Buxton were known to the Romans, various remains of Roman workmanship having been discovered about them. Their celebrity in the later ages is little known, our writers making little mention of them till the 16th century. Buxton was much frequented in the reign of Elizabeth, and since that period, the number of persons resorting to it, and the buildings erected for their accommodation, have been continually increasing. On a chemical analysis, the waters have been found to be lightly impregnated with mineral matter, particularly calcareous earth, sea-salt,

sea-salt, selenite, and acidulous gas, with perhaps some other permanently elastic vapour. The baths are three in number, and their degree of heat from eighty-one to eighty-two. The water is clear, sparkling, and grateful to the palate. When drank in considerable quantity, it proves, for the most part, heating and binding. The temperature of the baths is extremely agreeable to the feeling. A slight shock is felt at the first immersion, which is succeeded by a pleasant warmth. The case in which bathing is attended with the most distinguished good effects, is chronic rheumatism, many persons every year absolutely crippled by this disorder being restored to the use of their limbs. The water is found beneficial in gouty, nephritic, and bilious disorders, and in most debilities of the stomach and bowels. In these, as usual in the administration of mineral waters, much of the benefit must be imputed to the air, exercise, and change of living.

Buxton water issues to the day through the fissures of a rock of blackish marble. Some of these openings are large, and some apparent only from the circumstance of the water running through them, attended with large air bubbles. The springs are many, and the water pouring from them so copious, that they have enabled the proprietor to make a number of useful and substantial improvements.

The place where the water is usually drunk, and which is yet called St. Anne's well, is a very elegant building, in the Grecian style, and is certainly a great improvement, both with respect to its conveyance from the original spring, and from the mode of delivering it to the company. Before the late alterations, the water rose into a stone basin, which, as has been before observed, was inclosed in a wall of brick. This wall remained to the time of Sir Thomas Delves, who built the late

handsome arch over the wall, which was about twelve feet square, and set round with stone benches. The basin was about twenty-five yards north of the outermost bath. This was supposed always to have been the original spring; but there is not a shadow of doubt that the water was conducted into the basin in a rude and slovenly manner, and from a very considerable distance. It must, indeed, be allowed, that the water is now conveyed from a somewhat greater distance into the present basin, which is of white marble. But as it runs through a narrow, neat channel of grit-stone, by which it is covered to the very edge of the basin, it is equally beneficial, and at the same time free from many impurities arising from foughs and drains to which the other was frequently and unavoidably exposed. The temperature of this water, which does not in any degree depend on rain, or other accidental circumstance, is always eighty-one by Fahrenheit's thermometer.

There is another fountain, called from its situation the Hall well. This is inclosed in a neat room opening into the corridore, which leads from the hall to the crescent, and is particularly convenient in bad weather. But, as it lies at a still greater distance from the spring, its temperature is one degree below the former. In other respects its qualities are the same.

An exhalation, or steam, often hovers over St. Ann's well early in the morning, and late at night; and sometimes, when the atmosphere is very moist and cold, it continues for the whole day. This last appearance is esteemed almost a certain sign of rain. There is no sediment of any kind whatsoever in the well.



Dr. Denman, from whose “*Observations on Buxton Water*,” lately published, the preceding account of the springs is copied, has given many judicious directions for their internal and external use, formed upon long practice on the spot. He in general considers Buxton water as a more active remedy than is usually supposed, and not only dissuades from its use in all inflammatory and feverish complaints, but limits the quantity to be taken, in cases where it is proper, to a moderate portion. “*In common*,” he says, “*two glasses, each of the size of a third part of a pint, are as much as ought to be drunk before breakfast, at the distance of forty minutes between each; and one or two of the same glasses between breakfast and dinner will be quite sufficient.*”—With respect to bathing, he recommends, for invalids, the time between breakfast and dinner as the most proper, and directs that the prescribed or usual exercise should be taken before the bath. The water should never be drunk immediately before bathing.

There is likewise a chalybeate spring at Buxton, in which the water is pretty strongly impregnated with iron held in solution by acidulous gas; and also an artificial bath of the Buxton waters, in which they are warmed by a stove.

The buildings for the accommodation of company at Buxton were, till of late years, only the *Old-hall*, a spacious house at the bottom of the hill, and a few inns and small lodging-houses in the towns. From the increasing conflux of people, however, new buildings were added yearly; and at length the duke of Devonshire erected the large and beautiful edifice called the *Crescent*, of which a view is here given, which will convey a better idea of it than can be communicated by words. It is built of stone got on the spot, and faced with a fine free-

stone, from a quarry a mile and a half from Buxton on the Disley road, and consists of numerous private apartments, supplied with every convenience, with a grand ball-room on the right, and a coffee-room under it. In the centre of the building is the duke's arms cut in stone, and furnished with a capital pair of *real* stag's horns, which were once brought down by order of the architect for the purpose of silencing a stranger, who, after severely criticising the several parts of the edifice, finished with observing that the horns were peculiarly ill executed. At the back of the Crescent are seen the stables, composing a grand square, and equal in magnificence and contrivance to any thing in the kingdom. A large range of sheds for carriages is annexed to them. To the front of the Crescent is a fine rising ground, laid down with grass, and planted with trees, round which are led agreeable walks. The whole design of these buildings is said to have cost the duke upwards of £.120,000. They are leased to a person who undertakes the management of them; and the resort of company has been such, as to fill them to overflowing. In the front of the Crescent, to the left, is a building where the waters may be drunk gratis. More to the left are the baths adjoining the Old-hall. See the view.

The roads about Buxton are excellent, being made with lime-stone, which forms a smooth, even surface. A new road round one of the hills at Buxton was cut in 1794.

One mile from Buxton on the road to Tideswell is *Fairfield*, a small, straggling village, with a tolerable church. From this place to Chapple-Frith, a new turnpike road will soon run in nearly a straight line, to join that from the latter town to the Wood-head. This will be three miles nearer, and also more on the level; and will be of great advantage

tage to those who have occasion to go to Huddersfield or Leeds without passing through Sheffield to the east, or Manchester to the west.

The country round Buxton is celebrated for lime of a very strong quality, the kilns for burning which form a principal object in the scenery of the surrounding hills. It is sent chiefly on the backs of small horses to considerable distances in the adjacent counties.

*Beeley* chapelry. The village stands in a valley near the Derwent. It has about fifty-four houses, and its inhabitants are chiefly supported by agriculture.

In the small hamlet of *Hassop* is the handsome seat of Francis Eyre, Esq. whose family is very ancient and respectable in this county. The present possessor has a very large collection of exotic plants in his greenhouses; and has continued the extensive plantations begun by his father.

There are various other hamlets in the parish not worth particular notice. One of the most distinguished places in it is.

*Chatsworth-house*, the seat of the duke of Devonshire. This is a magnificent building, situated in a wide and deep valley, near the foot of a high hill, finely clothed with wood. The gardens are distinguished by their water works, which, from the advantage of their situation, are rendered superior in their kind to any others in the kingdom, and were the objects of much admiration when those contrivances of art were in esteem. This house has been about two centuries the mansion of the ancestors of the Cavendish family. The present edifice

was,

was erected by the last earl of Devonshire, a few years before the revolution. The most remarkable thing in the inside is an elegant chapel with a good deal of the exquisite carving of Gibbon. Some modern improvements have been made in the grounds, and a noble range of stabling was built about 1760. The annexed view of Chatsworth was taken in 1793 from the west side of the Derwent, in the park.

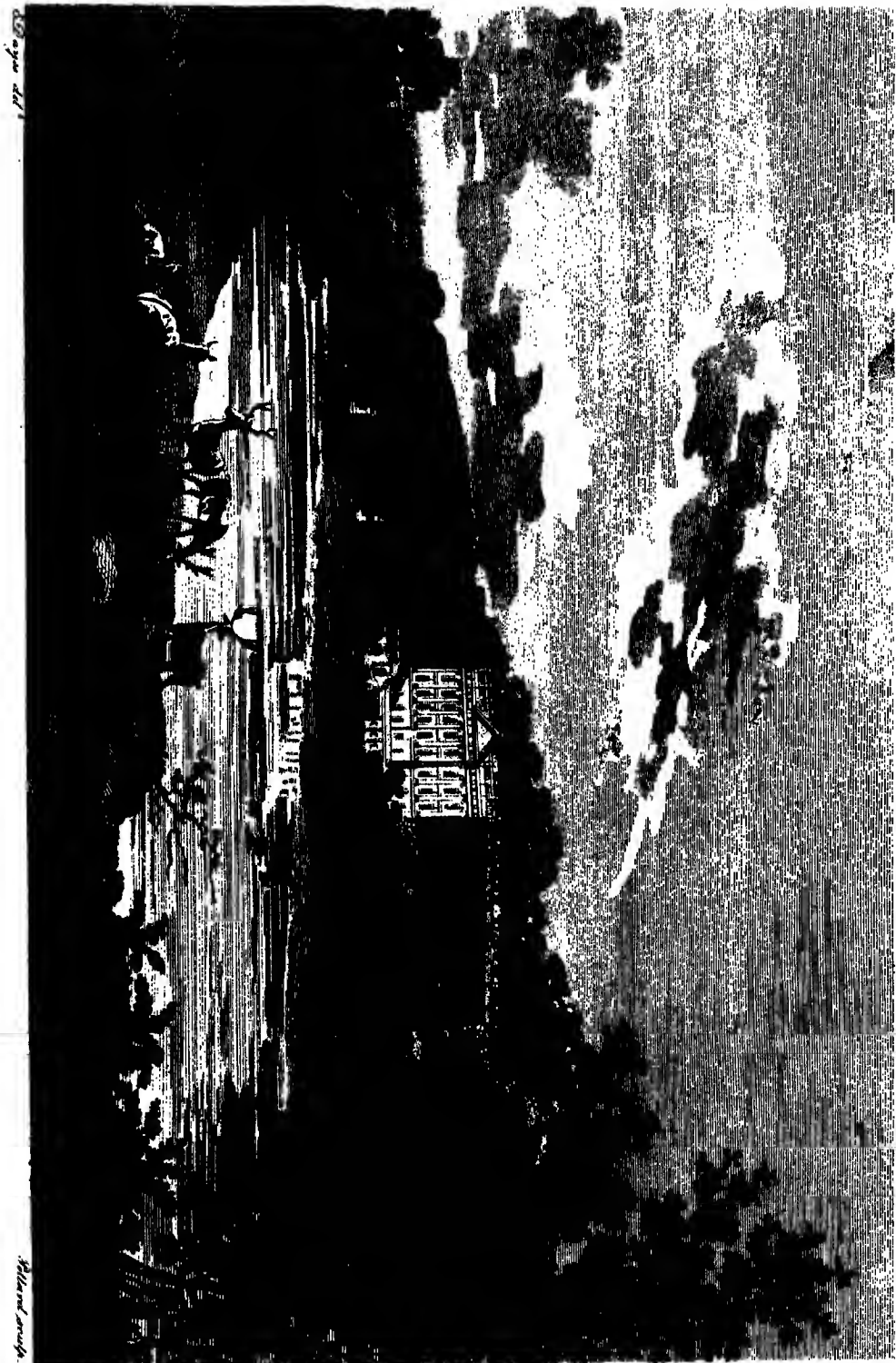
## YOULGRAVE PARISH.

ITS living is a rectory; the duke of Devonshire patron. The town of Youlgrave contains 136 houses, and 614 inhabitants. Agriculture and mining are the principal employments of the place.

*Winstler* is a market town containing 218 houses. The inhabitants chiefly depend upon the lead mines for support. These having been for some time in a declining state, the poor have employed themselves in picking and cleaning cotton for Sir R. Arkwright's works.

*Elton, Birchover, and Stanton*, are hamlets in this parish, containing together about 216 houses. In the neighbourhood of Birchover is a rocking-stone of large dimensions. There are various works of rude antiquity in these parts.

In a part of this parish within the wapentake of Wirksworth is the village of *Middleton*, near which is one of the most striking monuments of antiquity in Derbyshire, known by the name of Arbelows, or Arborlow. It consists of an area, encompassed by a broad ditch of a circular or rather of an elliptical form, leaving entrances to the north and south,  
and



VIEW OF CHATSWORTH.

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Illustrated weekly



and bounded externally by a mound. The area within is forty-six yards from east to west, and fifty-two from north to south. Round its border are thirty oblong stones intermixed with fourteen smaller ones, pointing to the centre, where are three others. This was probably a Druidical temple or place of worship.

## DARLEY PARISH.

THE living is a rectory ; patron, the dean of Lincoln. The whole parish contains 381 houses, contained in several villages. In all of them, agriculture and the mining business are the chief supports of the inhabitants.

Darley church lies on the east side of the river Derwent, close to it, in the dale leading from Matlock to Bakewell, which is one of the most beautiful rides in the kingdom. The church is ancient, and in the church-yard is one of the oldest and largest yew trees in the kingdom. No traveller can pass without noticing its appearance, which gives solemnity to the lonely church-yard ; there is no building but the parsonage house near it, which probably is as ancient as the church. Adjoining it are pleasant grounds and gardens, much improved and beautified by the present respectable incumbent, the Rev. Mr. Wray, who has had the pleasure to see trees planted with his own hands towering as high as the steeple of the church, and shading a considerable space of ground. He remembers in his early youth the branches of the yew tree extending to a length and covering a space of ground that would appear almost incredible. Some of its noble branches have been broken off of late years.

*Snitterton-hall* in this parish is a good manor-house, built about the reign of James I. It successively belonged to the Sacheverels and Milwards, and was, about the year 1680, conveyed to Henry Ferne, Esq. receiver-general of the customs, whose daughter and co-heir Elizabeth carried it to Edmund Turnor, Esq. of Lincolnshire.

### HATHERSAGE PARISH.

A VICARAGE, value £.35 ; patron, the duke of Devonshire. The number of houses in this liberty is about ninety ; in the outsets twenty-seven, and in Bamforth twenty-five. At Hathersage is a small manufacture of metal buttons. At Bamforth a cotton mill has been worked several years back.

*Stoney Middleton* contains about 104 houses, and 468 inhabitants. Several persons in it are employed in the burning of lime-stone ; but working in the lead mines is the chief business of the place. The dale which takes its name from this hamlet is one of the curiosities of the county. It is a narrow, deep, and winding ravine, not so much distinguished for grandeur or beauty, as for the peculiarity of the shape of its rocks. On the north side they bear a strong resemblance to the round towers and buttresses of an old castle ; and in some parts there is such a distinct appearance of mouldings, that one can scarcely help thinking the chissel has been employed on them. The rocks, especially on this side, are perpendicular, and rise to the height of 3 or 400 feet, but they are every where naked, except at a point near the entrance of Eyam dale. Here Mr. Longsdon has raised a beautiful plantation, with a grotto in the midst of it, furnished with the most elegant fossils of the country. The



road through the dale is so narrow, and its turns so acute, that you continually think your way stopped up by the rocky projections.

At Stoney Middleton is a bath, called *St. Martin's*, enclosed with walls, but open at top; the water of which, in its chemical properties, resembles that of Matlock. Its heat is sixty-three degrees of Fahrenheit. It is little used except by the poor of the neighbourhood. There are also three warm petrifying springs on the west side of the churchyard, and a chalybeate spring.

*Peak-forest* is a chapelry containing about ninety-five houses. Its inhabitants are employed in the cotton manufacture, in the burning of lime, and in the mines.

## HOPE PARISH.

A VICARAGE; the Dean and Chapter of Litchfield patrons. The village is small; a few hands in it are employed in spinning hemp and weaving sackings.

*Bradwell*, a large village in the parish, but declining in population, is chiefly supported by the mining business; a few persons are employed in the linen and cotton manufactures. There are various little hamlets in this parish, the inhabitants of which are chiefly employed in the mining business. The chapelry of *Fairfield* also belongs to it, though situated near Buxton. The whole number of houses in Hope parish is about 611, but some are uninhabited. *Brough* near Hope affords various proofs of having been a Roman station.

## CASTLETON PARISH.

A VICARAGE; the Bishop of Chester impropiator and patron. The town of Castleton probably derived its name from the castle, which is still extant in a ruined state. It stands on a high point of ground, one side being on the edge of a perpendicular precipice above the cavern named Peak's-hole. It is thought to be one of the most ancient fortresses in the kingdom, and part of it, at least, to have existed in the Saxon heptarchy. The town of Castleton was also once fortified, and the vestiges of a fosse and rampart are still to be seen. The number of houses in its liberty is about 182. The inhabitants are chiefly supported by the lead mines. The cotton-spinning in this, as in other places, has declined since the erection of Sir R. Arkwright's mills, and with it their population has diminished. On the noted mountain *Mam Tor* near Castleton are evident marks of an encampment, supposed by some to have been a Roman work. The vulgar story, that this mountain is perpetually crumbling without being diminished, is evidently false, its diminution being very visible. Of *Peak's-hole*, or *Castleton Cavern*, we have given a particular description at p. 73. The annexed view, taken in 1793, exhibits the entrance to the cavern, and the ruins of the castle above.

The valley in which Castleton is situated is perhaps the most striking in the high Peak. It is at least 800 feet deep, and in many parts nearly two miles wide, and extends eastward to the distance of five or six miles. A number of lesser dales at various distances are seen opening into it. The steep sides of the valley are beautified by well-cultivated enclosures rising above one another to its very edge. To the north the country boldly swells into hills, terminating in two high points. Westward



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ward it does not extend beyond the town of Castleton, but it there forms a noble amphi theatre : the back of which rises in many parts to the height of 1000 feet, and the front measures nearly two miles over. The town of Castleton, its ruined castle frowning over the precipice, and Mam Tor raising its head beyond, are grand and striking objects. This valley communicates with that through which the Derwent holds its course to Derby, a tract well worth pursuing from the romantic variety and beauty of the scenes it successively presents.

*Edale* chapelry contains about sixty-six houses. There are some remains of antiquity near this village, imagined to be Druidical.

## WIRKSWORTH WAPENTAKE.

## HARTINGTON PARISH.

**A** VICARAGE; patron, the Duke of Devonshire. This parish extends along the western boundary of the county about twelve miles, comprehending all the tract of land between the manors of Buxton and Thorpe. It is divided into the Hartington town quarter, and the lower, middle, and upper quarters. The town quarter contains sixty-three houses, and 363 inhabitants. In the village of Hartington about sixty hands are employed in the cotton, thread, linen, and check manufactures. There are traditions of battles fought near it, and a large barrow is to be seen on a high eminence not far from it, called Wolfs-cote hill. The lower quarter contains fifty-six houses and 281 inhabitants; the middle quarter, seventy houses and 333 inhabitants; and the upper quarter, 130 houses, some of them adjoining to the town of Buxton. In the north part of this division a great

quantity of lime is burnt every summer. There are eight k'lns, each of which employs five hands, and burns about 120 horse loads daily. Upon Hartington common, which extends ten miles in the direction of north and south, are many barrows, generally situated upon the highest points of ground.

## BRADBOWN PARISH.

A VICARAGE; patron, the Duke of Devonshire. The village contains thirty-two houses. *Brassington*, a large chapelry in the parish, contains 130 houses, and 482 inhabitants. Near it is a remarkable low or barrow, having a number of vaults carried round its circumference, several of them now exposed to sight. Other hamlets in this parish contain about fifty-six houses; the inhabitants are employed in mining.

## ASHBOURN PARISH.

A VICARAGE; patron, the dean of Lincoln. Ashbourn is a market town, situated on the great north road. The view of this town from the top of the hill on approaching it from London, is particularly delightful. It lies in a deep rich valley, with beautiful high grounds at the back, as well as on the front. The descent to it by the turnpike road is one of the finest walks in England, being fenced on the inner steep side with a handsome railing, and having a thorn hedge on the outer side. The church of Ashbourn is a noble ancient building, with a fine spire. There is a good free-school in the town, founded by citizens of London, natives of the place and its vicinity. The markets of Ashbourn,

which are on Saturday, supply an extensive neighbourhood. It has also a considerable support from its cattle fairs, which are held frequently, especially in spring and autumn. The trout caught in its river, the Dove, afford a delicious treat, of which most travellers chuse to partake. In the liberty of Ashbourn are about 480 houses. The manor of Ashbourn, long in the family of Cockayne, whose principal seat for many generations was at this place, passed from them into the Boothby family. Sir Brooke Boothby, the present lord, resides at Ashbourn-hall, a delightful situation. The parish of Ashbourn extends partly in this wapentake, and partly in the hundred of Appletree. In the latter are the hamlets of *Clifton*, *Offcote*, *Underwood*, *Yelderley*, and *Hulland*, together containing 103 houses. In the wapentake are *Mappleton*, a rectory containing thirty-two houses; *Alfop*, a chapelry, and *Parwich*, a chapelry, both at a considerable distance northwards, containing 102 houses; the inhabitants employed in farming. Near the latter village are vestiges of a Roman station, at which a number of coins have been discovered.

About three miles from Ashbourn is *Dove-dale*, one of the most singular and romantic scenes in Derbyshire. The river Dove here runs in a deep narrow valley, which leaves only a foot path on its banks. Its sides are almost in every part steep and craggy. After having entered it, which is done by a tolerably good descent near Thorpe, you find yourself enclosed between craggy rocks piled above one another to a vast height on the right, and a steep ascent clothed with wood and herbage on the left. On proceeding, the rocks assume the most extraordinary shape; in some places they rise to the height of thirty or forty yards in the form of spires and pyramids, entirely detached from the side of the vale; in others, they lean over the river, and seem to menace destruction to the passenger. About a mile up the dale a fine natural arch is seen,

seen, about forty feet high and eighteen wide, in a chain of rocks which extends along the edge of a high precipice, but so detached from it as to have the appearance of a masonry wall built by human hands. The rocks on the opposite side are covered with hanging woods, from the midst of which rises a solitary pointed rock, sublime in its appearance, and usually called by way of eminence, Dove-dale-church. In the opinion of the ingenious Mr. Gilpin, Dove-dale is one of the most pleasing pieces of scenery of the kind any where to be met with. Its perpendicular detached rocks stamp it with a character entirely its own. It may be added, that it is a favourite spot to the botanists, a great variety of plants, some of them rare, being found in its rocks and woods.

From Ashbourn are two distinct roads to Manchester: one through Leek and Macclesfield, the other through Buxton. The first is the nearest and much less hilly, and in general a good road. The latter through Buxton, to Disley and Bullock-Smithy, where the roads join, is nearly a perpetual ascent and descent of hills, frequently of considerable length, as much as a mile each way. This road is equally good, if not better than the Leek and Macclesfield road, being principally made with lime-stone. Until this year (1795) the stage for post-horses from Ashbourn to Buxton was twenty-one miles, perhaps the heaviest in the kingdom, and extremely destructive to horses. The Duke of Devonshire's humanity has induced him, as well for the accommodation of the public, as the ease of the animals, to establish at Newhaven a capital inn with post-horses, to divide this unreasonable stage. It was formerly a small public house where the horses were baited for a few minutes.







VIEW OF ASTIBORNE.

*C. D. Gray del.*

*Harmon sculp.*

The annexed view of Ashbourn was taken from the bend of the hill leading from London to Ashbourn, near to the town. On the right is the seat of Sir Brooke Boothby, Bart. ; in the centre, the town, with the Derbyshire hills behind ; on the left, the church, with the Staffordshire hills in the back ground.

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## FENNY-BENTLY PARISH.

A RECTORY ; dean of Lincoln patron. It contains twenty-six houses, and 130 inhabitants. The family of Beresford was seated here towards the end of the fifteenth century, and there are several monuments of them in the church.

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## THORP PARISH.

A RECTORY ; dean of Lincoln patron. It contains twenty-eight houses. Its inhabitants are supported by the farming business.

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## TISSINGTON PARISH.

A CURACY ; Sir W. Fitzherbert patron. Its liberty contains forty-four houses and 192 inhabitants. At this place is the seat of the Fitzherberts (now Lords St. Helen), who have resided here since the reign of Henry V.

## HOGNASTON PARISH.

A RECTORY; the King patron. It contains about fifty-two houses, the inhabitants supported by agriculture.

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## KIRK-IRETON PARISH.

A RECTORY; the dean of Lincoln patron. It contains 120 houses.

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## CARSINGTON PARISH.

A RECTORY; the dean of Lincoln patron. It contains forty-six houses; the people supported by agriculture and mining.

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## WIRKSWORTH PARISH.

DEAN and chapter of Lincoln patrons of the living. The town lies in a bottom, eternally enveloped in smoke from the neighbouring lead and calamine works. It has a handsome church, a free-school, and an alms-house. There is a town hall for holding the manor-court; and in this town are held the Barmote courts for the wapentake. Wirksworth has scarcely any supply of common water, but has a strong medicinal water of the sulphureous kind. The number of houses in Wirksworth is 486; in the whole township 648. This place has been supported by the lead mines from before the Norman conquest. At present, several hands are also employed in the spinning of jersey and

and cotton. A cotton mill erected by Sir R. Arkwright employs nearly 200 persons.

*Alderwasbley* is a chapelry in this parish. It contains fifty-seven houses; its inhabitants are principally employed in farming. Near it is the seat of Francis Hurt, Esq. formerly belonging to the family of Pole.

*Cromford* is a hamlet containing about 120 houses. Population has of late years rapidly increased here, on account of the great cotton machines erected by Sir R. Arkwright, which employ about 800 hands. This was the first place in Derbyshire in which that most ingenious mechanic established his works, the various contrivances of which have contributed to the improvement and extension of the cotton manufactures. All operations are performed here upon the cotton, from the raw state in which it is imported, to spinning it to the finest thread; and these in a manner much superior to that by former methods, as well as at a much cheaper rate.\* Sir Richard's residence was at Cromford.

His

\* Dr. Darwin's poetical description of these works will, we doubt not, gratify many of our readers.

So now, where Derwent guides his dusky floods  
Through vaulted mountains and a night of woods,  
The nymph, Gossypia, treads the velvet sod,  
And warms with rosy smiles the wat'ry god;  
His ponderous oars to slender spindles turns,  
And pours o'er massy wheels his foaming urns;  
With playful charms her hoary lover wins,  
And wheels his trident,—while the Monarch spins.  
—First with nice eye emerging Naiads cull  
From leathery pods the vegetable wool;  
With wiry teeth revolving cards release  
The tangl'd knots, and smooth the ravell'd fleece;

His son has built a very elegant seat on a rising ground east of the Derwent, commanding a view of his works, and the neighbouring country. This place has lately received great benefit, in a canal carried from it to join the Errewash navigation at Langley-bridge. See P. 133.

There are other hamlets in this parish, and among them, *Hopton*, the seat of Philip Gell, Esq. whose family have resided there since the time of queen Elizabeth.

### BONSALL PARISH.

A RECTORY; dean of Lincoln patron. It contains about 240 houses. Its inhabitants are employed in the mines, and at the works at Cromford. Here is a free-school, built and endowed by Robert Ferne of this place, ancestor of the Fernes, of Snitterton.

### MATLOCK PARISH.

A RECTORY; dean of Lincoln patron. The parish contains 373 houses. The inhabitants are considerably employed in the lead

Next moves the *iron-hand* with fingers fine,  
Combs the wide card, and forms th' eternal line;  
Slow, with soft lips, the *whirling can* acquires  
The tender skeins, and wraps in rising spires;  
With quicken'd pace *successive rollers* move,  
And these retain, and these extend the *rove*.  
Then fly the spoles, the rapid axles glow;—  
While slowly circumploes the labouring wheel below.

*Botan. Gard.* V. ii. p. 56.

mines, and lately several hands have been occupied in manufacturing stockings and in cotton works. There are twenty stocking frames in the parish. Two cotton mills have been erected; one in Matlock-dale, a large building belonging to the late Sir R. Arkwright.

The romantic beauties for which Matlock is so much distinguished, consist in a dale through which the Derwent flows, between vast ledges of rocks, some bare, and forming a perpendicular wall of two or three hundred feet in height, others adorned with a variety of trees and shrubs, thus yielding a combination of the rudely magnificent, with the soft and beautiful features of such scenery. The river itself is a great addition to the charms of the place, now flowing with a rapid and broken current, now gliding with a deep and gentle stream, the smooth surface of which reflects the rocks and over-hanging boughs on its margin. The most sublime object here is called the High Tor, which is a stupendous rock rising almost perpendicularly from the river to the height of 300 feet, and projecting its broad front into the valley.

*Matlock water and bath.*—The warm springs of Matlock were first noticed about the year 1698. They have gradually risen to the reputation they now enjoy, part of which has certainly been owing to the romantic beauties of the place, and the increased taste for travelling. Matlock water is grateful to the palate, but without any sensible appearance of a mineral spirit or impregnation. Its contents on analysis afford nothing remarkable, being chiefly calcareous earth. Its temperature is sixty-six degrees at the spring, and sixty-eight in the bath; as a bath, therefore, it is rather to be reckoned among the cold than hot. The effects of the water taken internally are supposed to be similar to those of

Bristol; they are accordingly used in hectic cases, spitting of blood, diabetes, and other diseases with a quickened circulation. The climate, however, is far from being as suitable as that of Bristol to consumptive patients. There are two baths at Matlock, the old and the new, and houses for the entertainment of company at each; of which the old is the largest and most frequented; the new the most pleasantly situated.

There are two chalybeate springs near the bridge at Matlock.

The annexed view of Matlock was taken from Mason's Inn (the Miner's Arms.) On the right are the rocks peeping through the tops of the woods; and on the left, the Zig-Zag walk.

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## SCARSDALE HUNDRED (Part.)

### ASHOVER PARISH.

**A** RECTORY; John Simpson, Esq. patron. In the church is a very ancient font, supposed by some to be Saxon. It stands upon a stone pedestal; and around are twenty figures in attitudes of devotion, cast in lead. There are several monuments in the church, chiefly of the Babington family. The number of houses in the liberty is 321. The inhabitants are supported by the mining business, and the manufacture of stockings. *Dethick* in this parish was long the seat of the Babingtons. Anthony, the principal in a conspiracy against queen Elizabeth,





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resided here. At *Lea*, another hamlet, is the seat of Peter Nightingale, Esq. A cotton mill has been erected here, and there is a small manufacture of muslins.

*Overton-hall* in this parish is a good mansion house, belonging to Sir Joseph Banks, Bart. whose family became possessed of it by marriage with the heiress of Hodgkinson.

WINGERWORTH. A curacy; the dean of Lincoln patron. The houses in the liberty are about sixty-one. A furnace for smelting iron ore furnishes employment to a number of persons. *Wingerworth-hall*, the seat of Sir H. Hunloke, is a large ancient house, on an elevated situation, commanding extensive prospects. The family of Hunloke has been settled here from the time of Henry VIII.

## CHESTERFIELD PARISH.

A VICARAGE; dean of Lincoln patron. Chesterfield became a borough town in the reign of king John. The corporation consists of a mayor, six aldermen, and twenty-four common-council men. The duke of Portland is lord of the manor. Its church is very ancient. The spire, which rises to the height of 230 feet, appears to lean to each side on which it is approached. The Presbyterians, Independents, and Quakers have each a place of worship in Chesterfield. There are also a free-grammar school, a town-hall, a jail for debtors, five hospitals, six alms-houses for widows, a workhouse, and house of correction. From an enumeration made in December 1788, the town was found to contain 801 houses, and 3626 inhabitants. The following  
extract

extract from its annual bills of mortality will give a view of its progressive increase.

Year.	Marr.	Chrif.	Bur.	Year.	Marr.	Chrif.	Bur.
1700	43	79	85	1760	37	129	153
1710	19	83	78	1770	40	119	117
1720	35	91	83	1780	43	165	103
1730	51	104	107	1790	46	181	172
1740	31	93	70	1791	46	202	102
1750	41	88	91	1792	71	208	177

Chesterfield flourishes in various branches of trade. The iron-works situated in the town and neighbourhood afford considerable employment. At *Walton* there are a furnace and foundry, which employ about 100 hands. At these works are manufactured cannon and ball, engine cylinders, stoves, grates, ovens, and a variety of other goods. At *Newbold* is a furnace chiefly used for smelting, which employs about forty-seven hands. In the town is a smaller foundry, at which utensils of various sorts are cast. The manufacture of stockings is another branch of its business. The frames in the town and neighbourhood are about 260. A manufacture of carpets employs eighty-four hands. A considerable number of shoes are made here for the London market. Three potteries near the town make a large quantity of coarse earthen ware. A cotton mill and hat manufactory have been lately established at *Brampton moor*.

The canal from Chesterfield to the Trent is a great advantage to its commerce, and is likely at last to become a profitable concern to the undertakers. We have already given a particular account of it in p. 116.

Several

Several chapelries and hamlets in this parish contain together about 460 houses. *Walton* was during many generations the seat of the ancient family of Foljambe.

B R A M P T O N   P A R I S H.

A CURACY ; dean of Lincoln patron. The church contains several ancient monuments, chiefly relating to the family of Clarke of Somerfall. The parish is very extensive, and contains 325 houses. In that part of it which lies near Chesterfield there has been a considerable increase in population owing to the iron works. This part of the county is said to be remarkably healthy, and the grave-stones in the church-yard afford many instances of great longevity.

D R O N F I E L D   P A R I S H.

A VICARAGE ; the king patron. It is a small market town. In 1783 the houses in Dronfield were numbered, and amounted to 171, which, with the remainder contained in several hamlets, make up 447 in the whole parish. The inhabitants are principally supported by agriculture. There is here an excellent free-school, with a noble endowment by Henry Fanshawe, Esq. in the time of Henry VIII. From the Fanshawes, of Fanshawe-gate, in this parish, were descended lord viscount Fanshawe of the kingdom of Ireland, and Sir Richard Fanshawe, Bart. ambassador to Spain in the reign of Charles II. There are still some vestiges of a mansion at Fanshawe-gate, which now belongs to Mrs. Fanshawe.

At *Cawley*, near *Dronfield*, is a sulphureous spring and bath, the water of which is gently purgative.

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## NORTON PARISH.

A VICARAGE; Mr. Lister patron. The parish consists of several hamlets, containing 278 houses. The manufacture of scythes is carried on here to a great extent. The number of persons employed in it is 136 makers and twenty-five grinders; and besides this, some of the principal manufacturers furnish work for other parishes. *Norton-hall*, in the village of *Great Norton*, is the seat of Samuel Shore, Esq.: *Norton-house*, in the same village, of Robert Newton, Esq. At a small distance is the large and ancient mansion of John Bagshaw, Esq.

## IV.—S T A F F O R D S H I R E.

THE principal object for which we have included part of this county in our design having been its potteries, we shall almost solely confine our account of particulars to those parts connected with them. The town which may be considered as their capital is

## N E W C A S T L E.

On the decay of the town or castle of Chesterton-under-Lyme, which was a place of note before the conquest, the earl of Lancaster, in the reign of Henry III. built another in the vicinity, in the midst of a great pool, which he called the New-Castle, and which gave origin to the present town of that name. By Camden it is called *Newcastle-under-Lyme*; but Leland names it *Newcastle-under-Line*, and says it is so called of a brook running thereby, or of a hill, or a wood, so named. The remains of the castle have long since been obliterated, but the town has become a considerable place of trade.

Newcastle is situated on the side of a hill, descending rapidly into the vale. It is a corporate town; its corporation consisting of a mayor and twenty-one aldermen, of whom two are justices of the peace, a recorder, town-clerk, and two serjeants. It has a court for holding

pleas for any sum under £.40, and the sessions are quarterly. It is likewise a parliamentary borough, sending two representatives, chosen by the resident freemen, whose number is computed at 664. The mayor is returning officer. The chief interest is in the marquis of Stafford, which has, however, been lately checked by the spirited and persevering opposition of Thomas Fletcher, Esq. a resident in the place.

The church of Newcastle is large, but wants repair. There are several places of worship for dissenters of various denominations. There are twenty alms-houses, endowed by the Trentham family, for the support of as many women, who are allowed each 2*s.* 11*d.* per week, and a new gown yearly.

Newcastle, including the late additions, is nearly a mile in length and breadth. Several of the streets are spacious, the market-place particularly so, in which stands the town-hall; but the buildings have a black appearance in consequence of the quantity of coals burnt in the manufactures. The inhabitants are chiefly in trade, and many of them opulent. There are two principal fairs, at Easter and Whitfunside. The market-day is Monday, and every fortnight there is a cattle fair. A handsome little theatre was built in 1788 by the subscription of twenty gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood. A singularity which deserves mention, is a boarding-school for young ladies built by subscription, the house of which is elegant, and stands on the border of an extensive and delightful public ground, called the Brampton.

The manufacture for which this town has been long noted, is that of hats, which formerly were almost solely of the coarse kind, but of



late years the manufacturers have been successful in their attempts to make those of the finest quality. A considerable quantity of the hats made here are bought for the use of the surrounding country, which is very populous; but by far the greater share is sent by orders to all parts of the kingdom. There are also large quantities of shoes made here for the London and other markets, as well as for exportation. A pottery has lately been established in this town; and this branch of business is likely to succeed here to a considerable degree, provided an act be obtained, now in agitation, for cutting a canal from hence to communicate with the Grand Trunk at Stoke upon Trent.

The supply of coals to Newcastle is from the Apedale mines belonging to Sir Nigel Bowyer Gresley, Bart. conveyed from the pits to a wharf adjoining the town by a canal, the exclusive property of that gentleman, and sold at a low price stipulated in the act of parliament empowering him to cut the canal.

The markets of Newcastle have declined, since several have been established in the potteries; yet they are still considerable, and well furnished with corn, butcher's meat, and other articles, generally at moderate prices. The town is also well supplied with water.

The land about the town is in general very good and fertile; the prospects various and beautiful. The principal seats in the neighbourhood are,

*Trentbam-hall*, a noble mansion of the Marquis of Stafford. The house has two grand, modern fronts, above a lawn sloping to the Trent, and

is furrounded with grounds in which are blended all the beauties of art and nature.

*Keel-hall*, belonging to colonel Sneyd ; a very respectable, ancient mansion.

*Field-house*, a pleasing, rural villa of Thomas Yoxall, Esq. ; and the seats of H. Hatcl, Esq. ; James Bent, Esq. ; and at Woolstanton, that of Ralph Moreton, Esq. .

### *The POTTERIES.*

We shall begin with a particular account of the places in which this manufacture is seated, communicated by a very intelligent gentleman resident on the spot.

ABOUT a mile from the borders of Cheshire, the Staffordshire potteries commence at a village called Golden-hill, from whence to the other extremity of the pottery at Lane End, is something more than seven miles ; a considerable part of which, by joining together, strikes the traveller as but one town, although under different names. The manufacturing of pottery wares is the general and nearly sole business of this extensive and very populous quarter ; and from the great increase of inhabitants and houses in the last twenty years, (it being supposed that for every inhabitant or house then, there are at least three now) in all probability, the various towns and villages of Golden-Hill, New-Field, Smith-Field, Tunstall, Long-Port, Burslem, Cobridge, Etruria, Hanley, Shelton, Stoke, Lower Lane, Lane Delf, and Lane End,

will ere long be so intermixed with buildings, as to form only one town and one name. At a little distance they are all of them already ranked under the general name of *The Pottery*.

*The Village of GOLDEN-HILL.*—One should suppose this from its name to be a considerable and even splendid place; but on comparison it is found to be the least so of any in the pottery; however, its valuable mines of coal make ample amends for its other deficiencies, and from those mines the name was given it. At the upper end of this village is Green Lane, which commands a most unbounded and beautiful prospect. On one side the greatest part of Cheshire at once shews itself, closed by the Welch hills; and on the other, a complete and the best general view of the pottery and country beyond it.

NEW-FIELD—is well situated for manufacturing purposes, having plenty of coals in its neighbourhood; but as the place belongs wholly to one individual, Smith Child, Esq. who has a handsome seat here, it is probable that he will not suffer himself to be incommoded by a consequence inevitable where there are a number of manufactories of earthen ware together, the nuisance of the smoke and sulphur arising from them. It is therefore supposed that the manufactories will not be speedily increased here.

SMITH-FIELD.—The situation of this place, in point of convenience for manufacturing earthen wares, is not exceeded in the pottery. It has several strata of coal and coarse clay, which the potters use much of, close to its manufactories; but belonging solely to Theophilus Smith, Esq. (a view of whose seat is here given) this circumstance will doubt-

doubtless prevent the erection of more works. The prospects it commands are very beautiful and extensive.

TUNSTALL, including its environs, is the pleasantest village in the pottery. It stands on high ground, and commands pleasing prospects. The manufacturers in it are respectable, and do considerable business. There formerly was a church here, and various human bones have been dug up ; but such is the effect of time, that not the least trace of either the one or the other remains now. A neat chapel has been lately built here. There are a considerable number of brick and tile works here, the clay being of a superior kind for such articles, so that with good management the tiles made from it are as blue, and look as well on the roof of a house, as moderate slate. This place is four miles from Newcastle, and nine from Congleton, standing on the turnpike road from Lawton to Newcastle ; another turnpike road also commences here, and ends at Bosley in Cheshire.

LONG PORT, situated between Burslem and Newcastle, in a valley ; has some good buildings in it, and several considerable manufactories ; but its situation thereby is rendered at times disagreeable, if not unwholesome, by the smoke hanging upon it longer than if it was on higher ground. The Staffordshire canal passes Long Port, and has a public wharf upon it. This place was formerly called Long Bridge, from a kind of bridge which ran about a hundred yards parallel with the water ; on the removal of which, and completion of the canal, added to its rapid increase in buildings and business, the inhabitants about twenty years ago changed its name to that of Long Port.

**BURSLEM.**—This is the ancient seat of the pottery, where doubtless earthen wares of one kind or other have been made many centuries. Doctor Plot, in his history of Staffordshire, written in 1686, makes particular mention of the potteries of this place, and points them out as the greatest of their kind. He also gives an admirable detail, describing most minutely the process and manner of making earthen ware in those days. But as the wares of the present time are of a different kind, and very different also in the composition and manufacture, from that described by Dr. Plot, we shall, before we quit this neighbourhood, describe the present mode of manufacturing earthen ware, from the clay to its completion.—This place has two markets in the week, Monday and Saturday; but the meeting on Monday is the most considerable. In the last four or five years they have established regular fairs for cattle, which have been well attended. Burslem is a parish, and has a good church, lately enlarged and thoroughly repaired, with a good organ. The late Mr. Westley gained considerable ground here. The methodists have a chapel, and are very numerous; they have also regular built chapels in several towns and villages of the pottery: it is, however, supposed that the members of this society are not so numerous now as they were in the life-time of Mr. Westley. There are also great variety of other sects in the pottery: few places have so great a diversity of opinion on the score of religion as this; but the effusions of loyalty here upon most occasions may be fairly stated to be general, warm, and sincere.

**COBRIDGE** is a large village, has manufacturers of the staple article of the country earthen ware in it, and lies part in Burslem, and part in Stoke parish.

ETRURIA belongs solely to Josiah Wedgwood, Esq. who has a very extensive earthen ware manufactory here, a considerable village, a handsome seat, and complete grounds. In his pottery pursuits he has most deservedly acquired a great fortune with an equal share of reputation. The name of this place was given to it by Mr. Wedgwood, after an ancient state in Italy, celebrated for the exquisite taste of its pottery, the remaining specimens of which have served greatly to improve the beauty of the modern articles. The Staffordshire canal goes through Etruria grounds, which of course renders it a good manufacturing situation; but the whole belonging to one individual will most likely operate against an increase of manufactories.

HANLEY.—No part of the pottery can boast of more respectable manufacturers than this place and its vicinity. In point of size it is the next to Burslem, but built so irregularly, that to a person in the midst of it, it has scarcely the appearance of any thing beyond a moderate village; yet if the houses had been properly joined together, it not only would make a capital town, but a well built one. It has a good market every Monday. All the produce of the country about is brought here, except corn, the public sale of which is not allowed, it being so near the corn market at Newcastle. All the other markets in the pottery labour under the same inability, and from the same cause; but it is expected that attempts will be made ere long to get over such an inconvenience, as the inhabitants in general here, and many in other places, seem determined to deal as little as possible with Newcastle, on account of some instances of an unaccommodating disposition which have been shown by the latter. On the other hand, Newcastle, which was formerly the general market of the potteries, having of course felt some decline, in consequence of the rapid rise of their markets, has exhibited

hibited symptoms of dissatisfaction, which have contributed to augment the mutual jealousy and discontent between them.

Hanley has a very handsome, new-built and well-finished church; there are also chapels and meeting-houses for dissenters. It is an improving and spirited place.

SHELTON is an extensive place, and has many considerable manufactories in it, amongst the rest, one which deserves particular notice; the porcelain or china manufactory, carried on under the respectable firm of Hollins, Warburton, and Co. The china made here is very little, if at all, inferiour, especially in the colours, to that of the East Indies. This kingdom produces all the various stone and clay which are used in this manufactory; and from the number of years it has already been established, added to a regular increase of encouragement and demand for their porcelain, there is no doubt but the worthy proprietors will reap the fruits of their spirited adventure in fame and emolument. The ingenious Mr. Champion\* of Bristol, who discovered the art of making this porcelain, expended an ample fortune in the various trials. He had the good fortune, however, of bringing it to perfection, and obtained a patent for the exclusive privilege of making it, which he sold to the above gentlemen for such a sum of money as enabled him to retire to America, but he has since returned to England. The navigation passes this place, upon which there is a public wharf, the consequence of a water conveyance to and from the pottery, in such bulky and heavy articles as the raw materials used in this country, and the goods when manufactured, must be obvious to every one.

\* Author of "Considerations on American Commerce."

STOKE UPON TRENT is the parish town ; has an ancient, large church, well endowed ; is a rectory, and has under it several chapels and churches. It has, like most other parts of the pottery, improved much since the Staffordshire canal was cut. It contains some handsome buildings, and from its contiguity to a wharf upon the canal, is conveniently situated for trade. It has many earthen ware manufactories, some of which are upon an extensive scale. At this place, a gentleman of the name of Spode established a few years ago the first steam engine to grind burned flint for potters' use ; which, it is said, answers the expectation. The river Trent passes here, and at times with rapidity ; nevertheless the brick arches which carry the navigation above the river do not seem to have sustained much injury. J. Whieldon, Esq. has a pleasant rural seat here. A new road has lately been cut from this place to join the London road between Newcastle and Trentham. Heretofore the road lay through Newcastle, which was considerably round. From this place to Newcastle on the right, the prospects are extremely beautiful ; and nearly at the midway, a view so populous, and at the same time so picturesque, is seldom met with.

LOWER LANE, LANE DELF, *and* LANE END, conclude the pottery beyond Stoke. The latter place is by far the most considerable. It has a new-built chapel under Stoke, a methodist chapel, and meeting-houses for other dissenters. These places, particularly the latter, manufacture large quantities of earthen wares ; but it is said to be with less attention than in the other parts of the pottery, consequently something inferior in quality ; at the same time, there are a few houses whose wares are inferior to none. On the right hand, at Lower Lane, is *Fenton*, the seat of Charles Smith, Esq. To the left, at Lane End, is *Longton-hall*, the seat of Sir John Edenion Heathcote, and to the



left of it *Park-hall*, the seat of — Parker, Esq. a descendant of lord chief justice Parker. Some earthen ware is also manufactured at New Chapel, Wolstanton, Red-street, Newcastle, Norton, and some other places; but not in so extensive a degree as in most of the places already mentioned.

With respect to the manufactures themselves, we are happy in being able to present to our readers a very accurate account of their rise, progress, and present state, drawn up by a person of great chymical knowledge, and thoroughly acquainted with the subject.

*Account of the Pottery Manufacture in Staffordshire.*

This part of the county, from the clays and the coal mines which it abounds with, appears better adapted for a manufactory of earthen wares than, perhaps, for any other. The *measures* or strata, by which the beds of coal are divided, consist most commonly of clays of different kinds, some of which make both excellent fire bricks for building the potters' kilns and faggars,\* or cases in which the ware is burnt. Finer clays, of various colour and textures, are likewise plentiful in many places, most of them near the surface of the earth; and of these, the bodies of the wares themselves were formerly manufactured. The coals being then also got near the surface, were plentiful and cheap: Plot states them, so late as his time, at twopence the horse load, which, at eight horse loads to a ton, (the common estimation) amounts only to sixteen pence per ton. The land, having chiefly a clay bottom, was unfavourable to the productions of husbandry; and its remoteness from the seats of commerce contributed further to render labour cheap. All

\* This is a corruption of the German word *schragers*, which signifies cases or supporters.

these circumstances considered together, with some others which will be mentioned hereafter, may possibly afford the best answer to a question which has often been asked; why the pottery was established in Staffordshire preferably to any other place, and why it still continues to flourish there more than in any other part of the kingdom, or perhaps of the world?

How long this kind of manufactory has subsisted here is utterly unknown. It can be traced with certainty for at least two centuries back; and no document or tradition remains of its first introduction. Its principal seat seems to have been formerly the town of Burslem, and it was then called a *butter* pottery, that is, a manufactory of pots in which butter was kept; and we have seen it so denominated in a very old map. As a proof of the antiquity of the manufacture in this neighbourhood, it may be proper to mention, that about seventy years ago, below the foundation of a building then taken down and supposed to have been not less than a hundred years old, the bottom of a potter's kiln was discovered, with some of the faggars upon it, and pieces of the ware in them; and that about the same time a road, which had long before been made across a field, being worn down into a hollow way, the hearth of a potter's kiln was found to be cut through by this hollow part of the road; and it was not among the then existing, or then remembered potteries, that these old works were discovered, but at a considerable distance, in places where no tradition remained among the oldest inhabitants of the neighbouring villages that any pot-works had ever been. It may be added, that pieces of ware, of the rudest workmanship and without any glaze or varnish, are frequently met with in digging for the foundations of new erections.

Though the old remains are undoubtedly the productions of distant periods, they give little or no light into the successive improvements made in the art ; nor indeed could any good purpose be answered by an inquiry of that kind ; for though the manufacture has, within our memory, advanced with amazing rapidity to its present magnitude, it seems to have continued for a long series of years almost uniformly rude and uninteresting. Even so late as the year 1686, when Dr. Plot published his history of the county, the quantity of goods manufactured was so inconsiderable, that “ the principal sale of them,” the doctor says, “ was to the poor crate-men, who carried them *at their backs* all over “ the country !” All the ware was then of the coarse yellow, red, black, and mottled kind, made from the clays found in the neighbourhood, as already mentioned ; the body of the ware being formed of the inferior kinds of clay, and afterwards painted or mottled with the finer coloured ones mixed with water, separately or blended together, much in the same manner that paper is marbled. The common glaze was produced by lead ore, finely powdered, and sprinkled on the pieces of ware before firing ; sometimes with the addition of a little manganese, for the sake of the brown colour it communicates ; and, when the potter wished “ to shew the utmost of his skill” (to use Dr. Plot’s expression) in giving the ware a higher gloss than ordinary, he employed, instead of lead ore, calcined lead itself, but still sprinkled it on the pieces in the same rude manner.

The æra of improvement commenced a few years after the publication of Plot’s work, by the introduction of a new species of glaze, produced by throwing into the kiln, when brought to its greatest heat, a quantity of common salt, the fumes of which occasioned a superficial vitrification of the clay. How long this practice might have subsisted

in other countries, is unknown ; but it was first brought hither about the year 1690, by two ingenious foreigners of the name of Elers,\* who established a small pot-work at Bradwall near Burslem ; and it was in the memory of some old persons, with whom a friend of ours was well acquainted, that the inhabitants of Burslem flocked with astonishment to see the immense volumes of smoke which rose “ from the Dutchmen’s “ ovens,” on casting in the salt ; a circumstance which sufficiently shews the novelty of this practice in the Staffordshire potteries. The same persons introduced likewise another species of ware, in imitation of the unglazed red China from the East ; and the clays in this country being suitable for the purpose, they succeeded wonderfully for a first attempt, inasmuch that some of their tea-pots are said to have been sold so high as a guinea a-piece ; and some of the specimens which still remain in the country are very perfect in their kind, as well with respect to the texture and quality of the ware itself, as to the form and workmanship. The foreigners, however, did not long continue in this situation ; finding the manufacturers about them very inquisitive, and not choosing to have their procedures so narrowly inspected, they quitted Staffordshire, and set up a manufacture near London.

The establishment of the new glaze with salt was succeeded, in a short time, by a capital improvement in the body of the ware itself, which the tradition of the country attributes to the following incident : One of the potters (Mr. Astbury) in a journey to London, happened to have powdered flint recommended to him, by the ostler of his inn at Dunstable, for curing some disorder in one of his horse’s eyes ; and for

\* A descendant of one of these ingenious foreigners was lately a respectable magistrate in the county of Oxford.

that purpose a flint stone was thrown into the fire to render it more easily pulverable. The potter, observing the flint to be changed by the fire to a pure white, was immediately struck with the idea that his ware might be improved by an addition of this material to the whitest clays he could procure. Accordingly he sent home a quantity of the flint stones, which are plentiful among the chalk in that part of the country, and on trial of them with tobacco-pipe clay, the event proved fully answerable to his expectation. Thus originated the *white* stone ware, which soon supplanted the coloured ones, and continued for many years the staple branch of pottery.

Those who became first acquainted with the great improvement produced by the addition of flint, endeavouring, as is usual in such cases, to keep the secret to themselves, had the flints pounded in mortars by manual labour, in cellars or in private rooms; but the operation proved pernicious to many of the workmen, the fine dust getting into the lungs, and producing dreadful coughs and consumptions, and these alarming complaints of the men may be presumed to have hastened the discovery of the source from which they had arisen. The secret becoming generally known, the consequent increase of demand for the flint powder occasioned trials to be made of mills, of various constructions, for stamping and for grinding it; and the ill effects of the dust, which could not be entirely guarded against when the stones were either pounded or ground dry, pointed out an addition of water in the grinding. This method, being found effectual as well as safe, is still continued: the ground flint comes from the mill in a liquid state about the consistence of cream; and the tobacco-pipe clay being mixed up with water to the same consistence, the two liquids are proportioned to one another by measure instead of weight.

A little after the use of flint had been introduced, an improvement was made by an ingenious mechanic in the neighbourhood, Mr. Alsager, in the potter's wheel, by which its motion was greatly accelerated. This enabled the potters to form their ware not only with greater expedition and facility, but likewise with more neatness and precision than they had done before.

By these means the manufacture was so far improved, in the beginning of the present century, as to furnish various articles for tea and coffee equipages, and soon after for the dinner table also. Before the middle of the century these articles were manufactured in quantity, as well for exportation as home consumption. The salt glaze, however, the only one then in use for these purposes, is in its own nature so imperfect, and the potters, from an injudicious competition among themselves for cheapness rather than for excellence, had been so inattentive to elegance of forms and neatness of workmanship, that this ware began to be rejected from genteel tables, and supplanted by a white ware of finer forms and more beautiful glaze, which, about the year 1760, was imported in considerable quantities from France.

This inundation of a foreign manufacture, so much superior to our own, must have had very bad effects upon the potteries of this kingdom, if a new one, still more to the public taste, had not happily been soon after produced here. In 1763, Mr. Josiah Wedgwood, who had already introduced several improvements into this art, as well with respect to the forms and colours of the wares, as the composition of which they were made, invented a species of earthen ware for the table, of a firm and durable body, and covered with a rich and brilliant glaze, and bearing sudden vicissitudes of cold and heat without injury : it was accom-

accompanied also with the advantage of being manufactured with ease and expedition, was sold cheap, and as it possessed, with the novelty of its appearance, every requisite quality for the purpose intended, it came quickly into general estimation and use. To this manufacture the Queen was pleased to give her name and patronage, commanding it to be called *Queen's Ware*, and honouring the inventor by appointing him her majesty's potter.

This ware is composed of the whitest clays from Devonshire, Dorsetshire, and other places, mixed with a due proportion of ground flint. The pieces are fired twice, and the glaze applied after the first firing, in the same manner as on porcelain. The glaze is a vitreous composition, of flint and other white earthy bodies, with an addition of white lead for the flux, analogous to common flint glass; so that, when prepared in perfection, the ware may be considered as coated over with real flint glass. This compound being mixed with water to a proper consistence, the pieces, after the first firing, are separately dipped in it: being somewhat bibulous, they drink in a quantity of the mere water, and the glaze which was united with that portion of the water remains adherent, uniformly, all over their surface, so as to become, by the second firing, a coat of perfect glass.

To the continued experimental researches of the same person we owe the invention of several other species of earthen ware and porcelain, adapted to various purposes of ornament and use. The principal are the six following:

1. A *terru cotta*; resembling porphyry, granite, Egyptian pebble, and other beautiful stones of the siliceous or crystalline order.

Y y

2. *Basaltes*

2. *Basaltes* or black ware ; a black porcelain biscuit of nearly the same properties with the natural stone ; striking fire with steel, receiving a high polish, serving as a touchstone for metals, resisting all the acids, and bearing, without injury, a strong fire, stronger indeed than the basaltes itself.

3. *White porcelain biscuit*, of a smooth wax-like surface, of the same properties with the preceding, except in what depends upon colour.

4. *Jasper* ; a white porcelain biscuit of exquisite beauty and delicacy, possessing the general properties of the basaltes, together with the singular one of receiving through its whole substance, from the admixture of metallic calces with the other materials, the same colours which those calces communicate to glass or enamels in fusion ; a property which no other porcelain or earthen ware body, of ancient or modern composition, has been found to possess. This renders it peculiarly fit for making cameos, portraits, and all subjects in bas relief, as the ground may be of any particular colour, while the raised figures are of a pure white.

5. *Bamboo*, or cane-coloured biscuit porcelain ; of the same nature as No. 3.

6. *A porcelain biscuit*, remarkable for great *hardness*, little inferior to that of agate : this property, together with its resistance to the strongest acids and corrosives, and its impenetrability by every known liquid, adapts it for mortars and many different kinds of chemical vessels.



These six distinct species, with the queen's ware already mentioned, expanded, by the industry and ingenuity of the different manufacturers, into an infinity of forms for ornament and use, variously painted and embellished, constitute nearly the whole of the present fine English earthen wares and porcelain, which are now become the source of a very extensive trade, and which, considered as an object of national art, industry, and commerce, may be ranked amongst the most important manufactures of the kingdom.

The evidence given by Mr. Wedgwood to the committee of Privy Council, and at the bars of the two Houses of Parliament, when a commercial arrangement with Ireland was in agitation, in 1785, will give some idea of the present extent of this manufacture, and of its value to our maritime and landed, as well as our commercial, interests.

Though the manufacturing part alone, in the potteries and their vicinity, gives bread to fifteen or twenty thousand people, including the wives and children of those who are employed in it; he looks upon this as a small object when compared with the many others which depend on it, namely, 1. The immense quantity of *inland carriage* it creates throughout the kingdom, both for its raw materials and finished goods:—2. The great number of people employed in the extensive collieries for its use:—3. The still greater number employed in *raising* and *preparing* its raw materials, in several distant parts of England, from near the Land's-end in Cornwall—one way along different parts of the coast, to Falmouth, Teignmouth, Exeter, Pool, Gravesend, and the Norfolk coast—the other way, to Biddeford, Wales, and the Irish coast:—4. The *coasting vessels*, which, after having been employed at the proper season in the Newfoundland fishery, carry these materials coast-wise to

Liverpool and Hull, to the amount of more than 20,000 tons yearly, at times when they would otherwise be laid up idle in harbour:—5. The further conveyance of them from those ports, by *river and canal navigation*, to the potteries situated in one of the most inland parts of this kingdom:—and 6. The *re-conveyance* of the finished goods to the different ports of this island, where they are shipped for every foreign market that is open to the earthen wares of England.

He observes further, that this manufacture is attended with some advantageous circumstances almost peculiar to itself, viz. that the value of the manufactured goods consists almost wholly in labour; that one ton of raw materials produces several tons of finished goods for shipping, the freight being then charged, not by the weight, but by the bulk;—that scarce a vessel leaves any of our ports without more or less of these cheap, bulky, and therefore valuable articles to this maritime country; and, above all, that not less than five parts in six, of the whole produce of the potteries, are exported to foreign markets.

Important as the pottery may now appear, and rapid as its progression has been within the last thirty years, Mr. Wedgwood, in his evidence to the House of Commons, declares himself strongly impressed with the idea, that the art is still but in its infancy, compared with what it may arrive at *if not interrupted in its growth*. In a history of commerce lately published,\* the editor, after quoting Mr. Wedgwood's evidence, supposes that by this last expression he alludes to the introduction of *excise laws* in the pottery, of which, it seems, there was some talk at that time; but adds, very justly, that it would have been too im-

\* Appendix to the second edition of Anderson's History of Commerce, vol. iv. p. 700.  
politic

politic a step to check so growing a manufacture by excise laws, more especially when five-sixths of the duty collected must have been paid back again upon exportation of the goods, and an opening thereby made for fraud, which, if we may judge from what has been practised in some other articles, would have made the drawback amount to more than the original payment.

To the preceding general account of the manufacture, we shall add a more particular description of the process used in manufacturing the earthen ware, which has been communicated to us by a person on the spot.

A piece of the prepared mixture of clay and ground flint, dried and tempered to a proper consistence, is taken to be formed into any required shape and fashion, by a man who sits over a machine called a wheel, on the going round of which he continues forming the ware. This branch is called *throwing*, and as water is required to prevent the clay sticking to the hand, it is necessary to place it for a short time in a warm situation. It then undergoes the operation of being turned, and made much smoother than it was before, by a person called a turner; when it is ready for the handle and spout to be joined to, by the branch called *handling*.—Dishes, plates, tureens, and many other articles are made from moulds of ground plaister, and when finished, the whole are placed carefully (being then in a much more brittle state than when fired) in faggars, which in shape and form pretty much resemble a lady's band-box without its cover, but much thicker, and are made from the marl or clay of this neighbourhood. The larger ovens or kilns are placed full of faggars so filled with ware; and after a fire which consumes from twelve to fifteen tons of coal, when the oven is become

become cool again, the faggars are taken out, and their contents removed, often exceeding in number 30,000 various pieces ; but this depends upon the general sizes of the ware. In this state the ware is called *biscuit*, and the body of it has much the appearance of a new tobacco pipe, not having the least gloss upon it. It then is immersed or dipped into a fluid generally consisting of sixty pounds of white lead, ten pounds of ground flint, and twenty pounds of a stone from Cornwall burned and ground, all mixed together, and as much water put to it as reduces it to the thickness of cream, which it resembles. Each piece of ware being separately immersed or dipped into this fluid, so much of it adheres all over the piece, that when put into other faggars, and exposed to another operation of fire, performed in the glossing kiln or oven, the ware becomes finished by acquiring its glossy covering, which is given it by the vitrification of the above ingredients. Enamelled ware undergoes a third fire after its being painted, in order to bind the colour on.

A single piece of ware, such as a common enamelled tea-pot, a mug, jug, &c. passes through at least fourteen different hands before it is finished, viz.

- The slipmaker, who makes the clay ;
- The temperer, or beater of the clay ;
- The thrower, who forms the ware ;
- The ballmaker and carrier ;
- The attender upon the drying of it ;
- The turner who does away its roughness ;
- The spoutmaker ;
- The handler, who puts to the handle and spout ;

The first, or biscuit fireman ;  
The person who immerses or dips it into the lead fluid ;  
The second, or gloss fireman ;  
The dresser, or sorter in the warehouse ;  
The enameller, or painter ;  
The muffle, or enamel fireman.

Several more are required to the completion of such piece of ware, but are in inferior capacities, such as turners of the wheel, turners of the lathe, &c. &c.

We cannot more properly close this account of the Staffordshire potteries, than with a biographical record of the person to whom they have been so much indebted, extracted from the *Gentleman's Magazine* for January 1795, the period of his much-lamented death.

“ DIED, at Etruria, in Staffordshire, aged 64, JOSIAH WEDGWOOD, Esq. F. R. and A. SS. ; to whose indefatigable labours is owing the establishment of a manufacture that has opened a new scene of extensive commerce, before unknown to this or any other country. It is unnecessary to say that this alludes to the Pottery of Staffordshire, which, by the united efforts of Mr. Wedgwood, and his late partner, Mr. Bentley, has been carried to a degree of perfection, both in the line of utility and ornament, that leaves all works, ancient or modern, far behind.

“ Mr. Wedgwood was the younger son of a potter, but derived little or no property from his father, whose possessions consisted chiefly of a small entailed estate, which descended to the eldest son. He was the  
maker

maker of his own fortune, and his country has been benefited in a proportion not to be calculated. His many discoveries of new species of earthen wares and porcelains, his studied forms and chaste style of decoration, and the correctness and judgment with which all his works were executed under his own eye, and by artists, for the most part, of his own forming, have turned the current in this branch of commerce ; for, before his time, England imported the finer earthen wares ; but, for more than twenty years past, she has exported them to a very great annual amount, the whole of which is drawn from the earth, and from the industry of the inhabitants ; while the national taste has been improved, and its reputation raised in foreign countries. His inventions have prodigiously increased the number of persons employed in the potteries, and in the traffic and transport of their materials from distant parts of the kingdom : and this class of manufacturers is also indebted to him for much mechanical contrivance and arrangement in their operations ; his private manufactory having had, for thirty years and upwards, all the efficacy of a public work of experiment. Neither was he unknown in the walks of philosophy. His communications to the Royal Society shew a mind enlightened by science, and contributed to procure him the esteem of scientific men at home and throughout Europe. His invention of a thermometer for measuring the higher degrees of heat employed in the various arts, is of the highest importance to their promotion, and will add celebrity to his name. At an early period of his life, seeing the impossibility of extending considerably the manufactory he was engaged in on the spot which gave him birth, without the advantages of inland navigation, he was the proposer of the Grand Trunk Canal, and the chief agent in obtaining the act of parliament for making it, against the prejudices of the landed interest, which at that time stood very high, and but just

before had been with great difficulty overcome in another quarter by all the powerful influence of a noble Duke, whose canal was at that time but lately finished.—Having acquired a large fortune, his purse was always open to the calls of charity, and to the support of every institution for the public good. To his relations, friends, and neighbours, he was endeared by his many private virtues; and his loss will be deeply and long deplored by all who had the pleasure of knowing them intimately, and by the numerous objects to whom his benevolence was extended: and he will be regretted by his country as the able and zealous supporter of her commerce, and the steady patron of every valuable interest of society.”

We shall add, that the great concerns of the late Mr. Wedgwood are now under the joint management of Messrs. Josiah Wedgwood and Thomas Byerley.

## L E E K.

THIS is the principal market-town of the Moorlands. It is situated on the side of a hill with a steep descent to a small river, which is a branch of the Churnet; and is a middling-sized, clean town, with wide and open streets, and a spacious market-place. It anciently belonged to the earls of Chester. The market is on Wednesday, and there are fairs at Candlemas, Easter, Whitsuntide, and other times in the year. The church is a fine, large edifice, standing on a high ground, which commands a delightful prospect up and down rich vallies to the north and west. In the church-yard is a tall pyramidal stone, adorned with imagery and fret-work. The town is well supplied with water, which, together with its situation, contributes to its cleanliness.

Leek long ago participated in the button trade with Macclesfield, of which an account is given under that town. It now possesses a considerable manufacture in the silk and mohair branches, the goods made from which materials are sewing-silks, twist, buttons, silk-ferrets, shawls, and silk handkerchiefs. In these manufactures are employed about two thousand inhabitants of the town, and one thousand of the adjacent country. Some good fortunes have been made by the Leek manufacturers, and its trade has been very flourishing; but the check on paper credit three years since injured it, and the war has lessened the foreign demand. Still, however, a good deal of business is done here, and the difficulties with respect to credit have in great measure been got over.

This town, lying at an equal distance between Ashbourn and Macclesfield, Buxton and Newcastle, and being on the London road to Manchester, is much frequented by persons travelling through the country in all directions, from which it derives considerable advantage.

The annexed view of Leek was taken from the road leading to Newcastle, which is thought to afford the best prospect of the place, though there is no very favourable one.





Chicago, Ill.

November 1894

VIEW OF RIVER.



## V.—WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

THE proposed limits of our work have been so nearly filled by the details which have crowded upon us from the parts already visited, that we shall be obliged to content ourselves with a concise view of the most important objects presented by the large and interesting district to which we have now arrived. Without attending to the topographical divisions of the county, we shall make a tour through its principal commercial towns ; beginning with one in its most southern part, distinguished by a branch of manufacture entirely different in its nature from that which in general characterises the West Riding. This is

## S H E E F F I E L D,

or *Sheaf-field*, a town of ancient note for its trade in cutlery and hardware, and called by Leland the principal market-town in *Hallam-shire*, a district said by him to extend six or seven miles to the west of Sheffield. The town is situated near the borders of Derbyshire, in the deanry of Doncaster, and the united hundreds of Strafforth and Tickhill, upon an eminence at the confluence of the rivers Sheaf and Don, over each of which is a stone bridge. That over the Don called Lady's-bridge, consisting of three arches, and leading to Barnsley to the north, and Rotherham to the north-east, is supposed to be so named from a religious house which anciently stood near it, and was dedicated to the

Virgin Mary, which was afterwards converted into alms-houses for poor widows. But when the bridge was widened, in 1768, these houses were pulled down. It was erected originally in 1485, for 100 marks, the town finding all the materials.—The bridge over the Sheaf was rebuilt by Edward duke of Norfolk in 1769, consisting of one arch; and leads to Sheffield-park, Hanfworth-Woodhouse, &c. to the east. The extent of the town from east to west and from north to south is about three quarters of a mile. It is six miles distant from Rotherham, eighteen from Doncaster, thirteen from Barnsley, thirty-six from Leeds, six from Dronfield, eleven from Chesterfield, and 162 from London.

In the north-east part of the town, where the two rivers meet, stood anciently a strong castle, of a triangular form, guarded on two sides by the rivers Don and Sheaf, having a strong breast-work before the gates, which were palisadoed, with a trench twelve feet deep and eighteen feet wide, full of water, and a wall round five yards thick. This castle, with the lordship of Sheffield, was granted (as appears by an ancient record) to Thomas lord Fournyvale, 39 Edward III. to be held by homage and knight's service and the payment to the king and his heirs of two white hares, yearly, on the feast of St. John the Baptist. It was surrendered, upon articles of capitulation, to the parliament forces by commissioners authorized by the governor, major Beaumont, August 10, 1644, and was afterwards demolished; so that there are very few vestiges of it remaining, except that the streets and places thereabouts still retain the names of the Castle-hill, Castle-ditch, Castle-fold, Castle-green, &c.

The river Don, which, being joined by the Sheaf, runs hence to Rotherham, is navigable for small vessels at about three miles distance from Sheffield; and thence to and above the town great numbers of works are erected upon it for forging, flitting, and preparing the iron and steel for the Sheffield manufactures, and for grinding knives, scissars, sheers, &c.

As a certain portion of ground or tenements in the town belongs to the freeholders at large, so seven of them (four of the established church and three dissenters) are appointed, under the title of *town collectors*, to grant leases, receive rents, and apply the produce of the estate to public uses, such as lighting the streets, &c.

The corporation here concerns only the manufactory, and is styled *The Company of Cutlers of Hallamshire*. The act for the establishment of this corporation was passed in 1625, and an amendment was made to it in 1791. It is governed by a master, two wardens, six searchers, and twenty-four assistants. The master is elected annually on the last Thursday in August, after having passed through the inferior offices.

*Churches, &c.*—There are four places of public worship according to the church of England. Trinity church, anciently called St. Peter's, which stands near the centre of the town, was erected about the year 1100. It is a vicarage, and formerly belonged to the priory of Work-sop, in Nottinghamshire. The vicar's income chiefly depends upon the small tithes, Easter dues, and fees for marriages, churchings, and burials; the glebe being but small, though lately improved. The vicar has

has three assistant-ministers, who were first appointed, and a donation of land made for their support, and other purposes, by queen Mary, in 1553. They are elected by the twelve capital burgessees, as they are styled, who are trustees for the donation. The office of these assistant-ministers or chaplains, according to the grant, was to assist the vicar in *sacramentis et sacramentalibus in parochiali ecclesia Sheffieldiensi et parochianis ibidem*. The church is a Gothic structure with a handsome spire in the centre. It has eight very tunable bells, and a set of chimes made in 1773 by Mr. Whitehurst of Derby. It consists within of a nave, two side aisles, and a large chancel. On the north side of the communion-table is the vestry and library, over which is a room where the twelve burgessees before mentioned transact business relative to their trust. On the south side is the Shrewsbury chapel which contains the monuments of three earls of Shrewsbury, of the family of the Talbots, viz. George, the fourth earl, and his two wives, Anne the daughter of William, lord Hastings, and Elizabeth the daughter of Sir Richard Walden, of Erith, in Kent: he died anno 1538; Francis, the fifth earl, who died anno 1559; George, the sixth earl, who died in 1599. On the arrival of Mary queen of Scots in England, she was put under the care of this nobleman, anno 1568, and so continued till 1584. Here likewise was interred, Gilbert, the seventh earl of Shrewsbury, son of the preceding, who died in 1616. On the side north of the chancel is a mural monument to the memory of judge Jessop and his lady, of Broom-hall, near this town; and on the south side is another to the memory of George Bamforth, Esq. of High-house, near Sheffield. The most ancient epitaph now to be met with in this church is upon a brass plate near the north corner of the communion rails, in the following words:

Here lyeth Elizabeth, daughter  
of Thomas Erle of Ormond  
and Lore his wyf fomtyme  
wyf to the Lord Mountjoye,

which Elizabeth deceased  
the xx day of February  
the year of our Lord mcccccx.  
On whose soul then have mercy men.

Anno 1700, was interred near the chancel door of this church William Walker, who, from strong circumstances, there is reason to believe was executioner of king Charles the first; see Gent. Mag. vol. xxxvii. 548, xxxviii. 10, lvii. 759.

St. Paul's church is an elegant modern structure in the Grecian stile. It was begun to be erected in 1720, but through some unhappy misunderstandings was not consecrated till 1740. It was founded through the benefaction of £.1000 from Mr. Robert Downes, a silversmith in this town, together with the subscriptions of several other gentlemen in the town and neighbourhood. It was finished in 1771. This church has a tower at the west end, with a bell and clock presented by Francis Sitwell, Esq. Within is a good organ erected in 1755 by Mr. Snitzler, and the galleries are supported by two rows of Corinthian pillars. It is a chapel of ease to Trinity church. St. James's church is a handsome modern building, erected by subscription upon the glebe land belonging to the vicarage, according to an act of parliament passed in 1788, and was consecrated August 5, 1789. The chapel at the duke of Norfolk's hospital, rebuilt in 1777 in an octagonal form, was principally designed for the pensioners, who have daily prayers performed here by a minister of the church of England, and two sermons on Sundays. It is calculated to contain a large congregation, but its construction is unfavourable to the hearers.

Near St. Paul's church to the north-east is a dissenting meeting-house built in 1700; another at a little distance below erected 1710;  
near

near to this a methodist meeting-house opened, June 30, 1780. In Queen-street north of Trinity church a new dissenting meeting-house was erected in 1784; there is another in Coal-pit-lane, south-west from St. Paul's; another in Howard-street, east of St. Paul's, opened April 11, 1790; another in Brick-lane, north-west from Trinity church; and another in Scotland-street, north-west of the same church, where the Liturgy of the establishment is read, but its minister is not subject to episcopal jurisdiction. A little distance from Trinity church to the north-east is a quaker's meeting-house; and in Norfolk-row is a Romish chapel.

*Charitable Institutions.*—On the east side of the river Sheaf near the bridge is an hospital, erected in 1670 by Henry, earl of Norwich, great grandson of Gilbert, earl of Shrewsbury, in pursuance of his last will and testament, and endowed with divers estates. March 3, 1770, Edward, duke of Norfolk, gave by deed £.1000 for the augmentation of the funds of the said hospital, which sum was applied by the trustees towards building a new chapel by the side of the old one. The hospital consists of two quadrangles containing eighteen dwellings in each. It was intended originally for the benefit of fifteen men and fifteen women, aged and decayed housekeepers, for each of whom was provided a house and garden, a pension of 2s. 6d. a week, three cart loads of coals annually, two new shirts or shifts, and a blue gown or loose coat every second year, and a purple gown and badge every seventh year. But, through the improvement of the estate belonging to this charity, three more dwellings have been added to each quadrangle, and three men and three women pensioners additionally admitted upon the foundation; and by a still farther improvement of the estate the trustees were enabled to advance their pensions at Michael-



mas 1763 to 3s. 6d. and of late to 5s. a week. On the north side of the town is another hospital erected in 1703 by Mr. Thomas Hollis, a merchant in London, who, it is said, was a native of this town, for the benefit of sixteen poor cutlers' widows. They have each a separate habitation and 6l. 10s. a year, which is paid, in some measure; quarterly; two cart loads of coals annually, and a brown gown and petticoat every second year. Upon the same foundation a master is appointed to teach forty boys to read English, and a writing-master to instruct a number of them to write during three or four of the summer months. There is a very good improveable estate belonging to this charity which is under the management of fifteen trustees. At the north-east corner of Trinity church-yard is a charity school for cloathing, feeding, and instructing, in English, writing, and accounts, poor boys from the age of seven to thirteen. They are dressed in a blue uniform with bands and caps, as usual in such places. There are at present fifty-four upon the foundation. This charity was instituted in 1708, and is supported by annual subscriptions, charity-sermon collections, dividends of stock in the funds, some small rents, &c. At the north-west corner of Trinity church-yard is a charity school, erected in 1786, for cloathing, feeding, and instructing poor girls in reading English, sewing, knitting, spinning jersey and line, and in such other particulars as may qualify them to be useful servants. There are at present fifty upon the foundation. They are admitted at the age of seven and continued till they are fourteen or fifteen, at the option of the trustees, when they are engaged out to proper places. This charity is supported by annual subscriptions, charity-sermon collections, &c. West from here is a free grammar school, the patent for which was granted by James the first, though, as appears from a date upon the portal, the building was not completed till 1649. It has a head-master (who must

be a graduate in one of the universities) and an usher. The head-master has a good house adjoining to the school. A little below the grammar school to the north is a writing school, erected in this century, where sixty poor boys are taught writing and accounts, gratis. About half a mile west from the town, September 4, 1793, was laid the first stone for an infirmary upon a large and noble scale. Towards this institution between £.16,000 and £.17,000 have been subscribed; the subscription having been opened by the late Mrs. Fell, of Attercliffe near Sheffield, with a donation of £.1000. A committee have been appointed to manage every thing relative to the building, &c.; and there is no doubt that the liberality of the public will be applied with the strictest and most judicious attention to the important and valuable purposes which the subscribers have had in view. It is fortunate for the interests of humanity that the subscription towards this benevolent institution was begun, and in a great measure completed, before the trade of the town and neighbourhood had experienced any depression or interruption from the war.

*Public Buildings, &c.*—In 1762 were erected in the south-east part of the town, in Norfolk-street, an assembly room and a theatre, by the joint subscription of about thirty gentlemen in the town, who, of course, remained the proprietors. The theatre has been since pulled down and rebuilt upon a larger plan. On the south side of Trinity church-yard is the cutler's hall, where business relative to the corporation is transacted. A building was purchased for that purpose in 1638; but the present structure was erected in 1726. At the south-east corner of Trinity church-yard is the town hall, built in 1700, where the town's affairs are settled and the sessions are held. August 31, 1786, a new market-place was opened, containing extensive and commodious shambles and other conveniences, erected by his grace the duke of Norfolk, who has a very large and improving estate in and almost

almost all round this town. At the south end of the town is a considerable work for the purpose of making white and red lead, begun about the year 1758. And at the west end of the town was erected, about the same period, a silk-mill, which has since been converted into a cotton work, burnt down, February 9, 1792, but since rebuilt, and now in full employ. Here are also four public breweries. The first stage-coach from Sheffield was set up about 1760, and now there are five. The first hackney-coach was set up by Nelson in 1793; of these there are not above six or eight yet employed.

### MANUFACTURES.

It is probable, from the town seal and other circumstances, that Sheffield has been the staple for iron manufactures from the year 1297, especially for falchion-heads, arrow-piles, and an ordinary sort of knives called whittles. But in process of time, other articles of more importance being invented, the cutlery trade was pursued in the town and neighbourhood, consisting of various sorts of sheers, knives, scissars, scythes, and sickles. About the year 1600 began to be manufactured an ordinary sort of iron tobacco-boxes, and "a silly musical instrument" called a jew's trump." In 1638, files and razors began to be made. In 1630, clasp or spring knives began to be manufactured with iron handles, which, in a short time, were covered with horn, tortoise-shell, &c. Still, however, it appears that, for near a century succeeding, the Sheffield manufactures discovered more of industry than ingenuity. The workmen dared not exert their abilities in labour for fear of being overstocked with goods. Their trade was inconsiderable, confined, and precarious. None presumed to extend their traffic beyond the bounds of this island; and most were content to wait the coming of a casual trader rather than to carry their goods, with much labour and expence, to an uncertain market. Old persons still remember that the

produce of the manufactory was conveyed weekly by pack-horses to the metropolis. About fifty years ago, Mr. Joseph Broadbent first opened an immediate trade with the continent. In 1751 the river Don was made navigable up to within three miles of the town, which greatly facilitated the conveyance of goods abroad. A stage-waggon was set up by Mr. Wright, which was soon succeeded by others. Master-manufacturers began to visit London in search of orders with good success. Several factors now established a correspondence with various parts of the continent and engaged foreigners as clerks in their counting-houses. The roads began to be greatly improved, and Britain and Ireland were thoroughly explored in search of trade. The fairs in different parts of the kingdom annually decreased in their importance, because shopkeepers could be easily supplied with goods at any time of the year. Buttons of plated metal had been made by Mr. T. Bolsover for a considerable time. But about 1758, a manufactory of this material was begun by Mr. Joseph Hancock, an ingenious mechanic, comprehending a great variety of articles, such as saucepans, tea-urns, coffee-pots, cups, tankards, candlesticks, &c. &c. Since that time this branch has been pursued by numerous companies to great advantage, and has contributed very considerably to promote the wealth and population of the town. The Sheffield trade in silver and plated goods was much assisted by the establishment of an assay-office in the town, in consequence of acts of parliament passed in 1773 and 1784; before which period the manufacturers were obliged to send their goods to London to be assayed and marked.

### POPULATION.

With respect to the population of Sheffield, it is not easy to form an accurate account from the parish register, because, though it seems to

have been kept correctly, yet, as it includes four hamlets or districts, exclusively of the township of Sheffield, the town cannot be considered distinctly. The state of population and its gradual advance *in the parish* may, however, be fully as worthy of attention as that of the town in particular. The register commences in 1561.

			Marr.	Bapt.	Bur.
From 1561 to 1570 inclusive,	-	-	234	1085	712
From 1571 to 1580 do.	-	-	275	955	721
From 1581 to 1590 do.	-	-	340	1245	959
From 1591 to 1600 do.	-	-	459	1364	1323
From 1601 to 1610 do.	-	-	417	1475	1049
From 1611 to 1620 do.	-	-	469	1699	1359
From 1621 to 1630 do.	-	-	532	1884	1606
From 1631 to 1640 do.	-	-	564	2130	2194
From 1641 to 1650 do.	-	-	410	2126	2276
From 1651 to 1660 do.	-	-	475	1698	1888
From 1661 to 1670 do.	-	-	585	2086	2266
From 1671 to 1680 do.	-	-	537	2240	2387
From 1681 to 1690 do.	-	-	540	2595	2856
From 1691 to 1700 do.	-	-	688	2221	2856
From 1701 to 1710 do.	-	-	942	3033	2613
From 1711 to 1720 do.	-	-	991	3304	2765
From 1721 to 1730 do.	-	-	1212	3874	3828
From 1731 to 1740 do.	-	-	1361	4635	3878
From 1741 to 1750 do.	-	-	1584	5904	5232
From 1751 to 1760 do.	-	-	1833	7036	6270
From 1761 to 1770 do.	-	-	2551	8885	7547
From 1771 to 1780 do.	-	-	2962	10,697	9898
From 1781 to 1790 do.	-	-	3863	13,851	11,849
1791	-	-	453	1607	1047
1792	-	-	471	1667	1246
1793	-	-	444	1732	1482
1794	-	-	402	1582	1473

The

The following is a statement of the population of Sheffield at different periods.

Year.	Famil.	Souls.	Year.	Famil.	Souls.
1615	—	2207	1775	4704	—
1736	2152	9695	1785	5256	—
				Houses.	
1755	2667	12,983	1788	5874	26,538
1768	3842	—	1789	6065	—

287 empty.

In 1732, according to Mr. Gosling's plan, there were thirty-two streets in Sheffield. In 1771, according to Mr. Fairbank's plan, there appears to have been an addition of twenty-five streets. In 1792, there appears to have been a farther addition of seventeen streets. It is not easy to give any exact account of the present population of either the town or parish of Sheffield. In the year 1789 it was found by actual survey of a few streets only, indiscriminately taken, that the proportion of inhabitants to a house was about four three-fourths. This would make the number of persons in Sheffield less than 30,000 at that time. It is generally believed that this number is considerably short of the fact, even farther back than that year; but conjecture commonly exceeds the reality. The town is certainly a healthy one; and if it be allowed that in Manchester and Liverpool one in twenty-seven or twenty-eight (perhaps now a much less number) die annually, one death annually among thirty persons resident in Sheffield is probably too great for the actual proportion; and comprehending the whole parish in the account, situated as it is in a hilly country, on a dry soil, and enjoying excellent air, it is conceived that not more than one in thirty-

thirty-five can be supposed to die annually. The average of burials for the last four years will be found by the above statement to amount to 1312. This number multiplied by thirty-five, gives the product of 45,920 for the population of the whole parish, without making any account of such funerals among the quakers and other dissenters as are never entered in the parish register. There is the less impropriety in not regarding these, because the dissenters here, though numerous, are much in the habit of burying their dead in the church yards.

The soil about Sheffield is generally of a deep clay; and from the quantity of manure bestowed on it, very rich. The duke of Norfolk, earl Fitzwilliam, and the countess of Bute, are the principal great proprietors; but there are a number of small freeholders. In the neighbourhood most of the farms are small, and the land is chiefly devoted to pasture and hay. Labourers obtain large wages, and the price of provisions is high. There is a good deal of waste land within a few miles of the town, and the country is rather bare of trees. The roads are generally bad, but more attention is now beginning to be paid to them than formerly. The climate is middling; the average of rain, thirty-three inches in a year, which is about a medium between that falling in Lancashire and on the eastern coast.

## BARNESLEY.

COMMONLY called *Black Barnesley*, is the principal town of the wapentake of Staincross. It is a place of moderate size, situated among coal pits and iron-works, and carries on a considerable trade in wire, with some other branches of hard ware. It has also a manufactory

tory of linen yarn and coarse linen cloth, which is in a flourishing state. It has a market on Wednesdays, at which much corn and other provisions are sold. Its fairs are in February, May, and October. The farms around it are small, and chiefly in tillage.

The church of Barnesley is a chapel under Silkeston ; the living in the gift of the archbishop of York.

## HUDDERSFIELD.

WE begin our account of the cleathing country with this town, which is peculiarly the creation of the woollen manufactory, whereby it has been raised from an inconsiderable place, to a great degree of prosperity and population.

The parish of Huddersfield, situated in Agbridge hundred, is very extensive, stretching from the river Calder on the north and north-east, to the borders of Lancashire on the west. Its breadth is less considerable. It contains, besides the township of *Huddersfield*, those of *Quarmby with Lindley*, *Longwood*, *Golcarr*, and part of *Scamanden*, of *Slaughtbwaite*, and of *Marsden*. The church is a vicarage, in the gift of Sir John Ramsden ; and has under it the chapels of *Dean-head*, and *Slaughtbwaite*.

The town of Huddersfield, except two or three houses, is entirely the property of Sir John Ramsden, who has for some years past granted building leases renewable every twenty years on payment of two years ground rent. He built a very good cloth hall some years since, and  
made



made a navigation from hence to the Calder, of which an account is given at p. 128. Within the township there are several freeholders. The highest officer is a constable, who, with his deputy, is yearly chosen at the court leet held at Michaelmas at Almondsbury, the manor of which also belongs to Sir John Ramsden.

The markets of Huddersfield are very well supplied with beef, mutton, veal, and pork, which are exposed for sale in shambles built by the lord of the manor. The market-day is Tuesday, but mutton and veal may be had on other days at the butcher's shops. It is also tolerably supplied for a considerable part of the year with sea-fish from the Yorkshire coast. The fat cattle and sheep are brought out of Lincolnshire and the neighbouring counties, and generally bought at the fortnight fairs of Wakefield, which supply much of the western part of Yorkshire and the adjacent parts of Lancashire. Butter, eggs, and fowls, are not usually sold at the market crosses, but may sometimes be bought in the neighbourhood. A moderate quantity of corn is brought to the market by the farmers round, and a larger quantity is brought by water from the more southern counties, much of which is carried forwards into Lancashire.

There are small quarterly fairs, at which some horses and lean cattle are exposed to sale; but the principal fair for this purpose is on May 4.

The progress of population in this town will appear from the following extract from its register:

Year.	Marr.	Christ.	Bur.	Year.	Marr.	Christ.	Bur.
1710	30	113	112	1730	48	178	149
1720	33	148	133	1740	41	196	100
A B				Year.			

Years.	Marr.	Christ.	Bur.	Years.	Marr.	Christ.	Bur.
1750	39	235	120	1790	113	377	267
1760	65	190	99	1791	140	381	270
1770	100	283	132	1792	119	395	274
1780	115	296	135				

The chapelry of *Slaughtbwaite* in this parish, which equally partakes of the increased population from trade, has afforded the following list of births and burials for a space of five years :

Year.	Christ.	Bur.
1784	124	53
1785	135	29
1786	140	49
1787	140	90
1788	153	37

From this and the preceding table a very favourable idea may be deduced of the healthiness of this district, and the advantages it offers for the increase of the human species. These chiefly proceed from the comparative healthiness of a manufacture carried on in rural situations and at the workmen's own houses ; from the plenty of employ and high price of labour, encouraging to early matrimony ; and from the warm cloathing, good fare, and abundant fuel, enjoyed by the industrious in this place.

The trade of Huddersfield comprizes a large share of the cloathing trade of Yorkshire, particularly the finer articles of it. These consist of broad and narrow cloths ; fancy cloths, as elastics, beaverettes, &c. also honleys, and kerseymeres. The qualities run from 10d. to 8s. per yard, narrows ; and broads as high as the superfines in the west of England. The finest broads in Yorkshire are made at Saddleworth,

the

the manufactures of which place are included in this district, being all sold at Huddersfield market. These goods are made from all sorts of short English wool, from £.6 to £.35 per pack ; and from Spanish wool. The lowest priced English wool is chiefly short wool sorted from large fleeces of combing wool bought in Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and the neighbouring counties. The finest English wool is from small fleeces in Herefordshire, Shropshire, and other western counties ; and also from Kent, Suffex, and their neighbourhood.

The markets for these goods are almost wholly Great Britain and Ireland, and America. They are bought up by the merchants of the cloathing towns in a state ready for cropping, dressing, and finishing, and are then sent to London and the country towns, or exported from Liverpool or Hull. All the branches of trade here may be considered as in a thriving state, making allowance for the temporary check of the war, which, however, has been less than might have been supposed, as appears from the annual accounts of cloths stamped and registered at Pontefract. It is to be considered, too, that kerseymeres and all other goods carried to the market at Huddersfield which are white and quilled, are not registered ; and these sorts are on the increase.

The new canal planned from Huddersfield to join the Manchester and Ashton canal, which is expected to be of great advantage to its trade, has been mentioned at p. 131.

The principal gentlemens' seats near Huddersfield are, *Whitley-hall*, the seat of Richard Henry Beaumont, Esq. whose family possessed this place in the reign of Henry II. ; *Kirklees-hall*, belonging to Sir George Armytage, Bart. ; *Fixby-hall* and park, the seat of Thomas Thorn-

hill, Esq. ; and *Mills-bridge* to William Radcliffe, Esq. To the west of Almondsbury is *Castle-hill*, an old fortress, supposed by some to be the Roman *Cambodunum* ; but Mr. Watson conceives it rather to be a Saxon remain, and that *Slack*, to the north of Huddersfield, was *Cambodunum*.

### SADDLEWORTH.

THIS place, though in the county of York, is within the parish of Rochdale ; the cause of which appears by an old book belonging to Whalley Abbey, to have been an application from Hugo de Stapleton, lord of the manor of Saddleworth, to Hugh, earl of Chester, for leave to erect a chapel for the use of his tenants ; to his permission for which the earl made it a condition that the chapel should be annexed to the abbey of Whalley. On the dissolution of monasteries this was annexed to Rochdale. The minister of its church or chapel is now put in by the vicar of Rochdale, and the tithes go along with those of that parish.

Saddleworth is a large valley, about seven miles long, and five across in the broadest part, situated in an angle of Yorkshire between Lancashire and the north-eastern projection of Cheshire. It is a wild bleak region, of which a very small part is under cultivation ; but industry has accumulated in it a large number of inhabitants, who gain a comfortable subsistence by the manufactory of woollen cloth, for which the place is peculiarly famous. The district is divided into four quarters, called *meres*, viz. *Quick-mere*, *Lord's-mere*, *Shaw-mere*, and *Friar-mere*. The latter was once an estate belonging to the Black Friars, who had a house or grange there, near Delph. The manor of Saddleworth was sold by its old lords, the Stapletons, to the Ramsdens ; by them,

to the Farrers and the Holts of Ashworth. The Holts sold their share to the tenants.

Perhaps a more remarkable instance of rise in the value of an estate cannot be produced than the following:—On August 9th, 1654, William Farrer, Esq. of Ewood, near Halifax, purchased a share of the lands of Saddleworth from William Ramsden, Esq. of Longley-hall, for £.2950. This, in 1775, brought in a rent of £.1500 per annum to James Farrer, Esq. of Bamborough Grange. In 1780 he sold off to the value of £.10,000, and by advance in the remainder kept up the same rent as before. At his death in 1791 the rent was about £.2000, much of it in leases for lives; and the estate being sold in small parcels to the occupiers and others, it produced nearly £.70,000; which, added to the value of that before sold off, makes a product of £.80,000 from less than £.3000 in the space of 137 years.

There are now about 400 freeholders in Saddleworth; and it is stated to contain 1822 families, and 10,471 persons. As this is a much larger proportion to a family than found elsewhere, it is probable some mistake must have been made in the statement. At the church, and its three chapels, in Dob's-cross, Lidgate, and Friar-mere, together with a dissenting meeting-house at Delph, there were in

1791,	91 marriages,	358 christenings,	292 burials,
1792,	73 do. -	456 do. -	267 do.

A remarkable proof of the healthiness of the place appears in the following fact: A benefit society established in 1772 consists of upwards of 300 members, some of whom were upwards of fifty years old

at

at their entrance. Only twelve members had been buried out of it to the beginning of 1794.

The trade of Saddleworth has increased in a very rapid degree. In 1740 there were not more than about 8640 cloths manufactured here, and those of a very coarse kind. In 1791 the number was 35,639; and in 1792, 36,637, which at an average were worth £.7 each in an unfinished state, as sold at Huddersfield market, nearly double the value of cloths made in 1740. For the manufacturing of these cloths are used 1,480,000 pounds of wool. The number of looms is about 2000; and there are seventy-six mills, turned by the Tame and the small streams falling into it. Many of the superfine broads made here vie with those of the West of England.

The land under cultivation in this district lets in small farms from 20s. to 40s. per acre. Some meadow land bring five or six pounds.

Lime is at present brought by land carriage from the Peak of Derbyshire, and sells at about 30s. per ton. Coals are got from the neighbourhood of Oldham, and are about 15s. per ton. The houses are all built of stone, which is in great plenty; but timber comes high, being brought from Hull or Liverpool, and undergoing an expensive land carriage; hence house-rents are dear. This hindrance to improvement it is hoped will be removed in a great measure by the new Huddersfield and Ashton canal, which will pass through the midst of Saddleworth.

*Castle Shaw* in Saddleworth, a remain of an ancient fortification, of which a plan is given at p. 471, is supposed by Mr. Whitaker to have been a fortress of the primeval Britons, which he thinks is pretty plainly evinced

evinced by the few relics which have been accidentally discovered at it. Within the area of the castle, extended as it appears to have been, from the present eminence of the ground, and the appellation of the Husteads and Castle-hills, and containing several statute acres in compass, have been dug up those round beads of the Britons, which have equally been discovered in the British barrows upon Salisbury plain. And within two or three fields from the castle was lately discovered a brazen celt. Mr. Whitaker also supposes that a castrum at Castle Shaw, seated at the foot of Stanedge, within two furlongs of the Roman road to Slack, was a Roman station.

In this neighbourhood are the much frequented and celebrated rocks of *Greenfield*, as well as several druidical remains, a rocking stone, &c. of which, would our limits allow it, a particular description should be given. Mr. Samuel Bottomley has written a poem descriptive of this romantic and almost uninhabited part of the country.

## HALIFAX.

*Halifax*, a town of ancient note for the woollen manufacture, is situated not far from the river Calder, in the wapentake of Morley, and within a parish or vicarage of the same name, which is one of the most extensive in the kingdom, consisting of twenty-six townships or hamlets. The parish is supposed to be fully equal in size to the whole county of Rutland, being about seventeen miles in length, and eleven in breadth; and hence, of course, must originally have been a waste and barren tract, with a very light population. It is bounded by the parishes of Whalley and Rochdale in Lancashire on the west, by that of Bradford on the north, of Birstall on the east, and of Huddersfield on the south.

The

The era of the introduction of trade into this remote district is not very accurately known ; but there is the authority of a MS. paper by Mr. John Waterhouse, once lord of the manor here, to prove, that at the time of his birth, in 1443, there were no more than thirteen houses in Halifax ; which number in 120 years was increased to 520 householders. This probably must therefore have been the period during which trade was introduced ; accordingly, it has already been observed under the head of Manchester, that in 1520 one of the three great clothiers of the north of England lived at Halifax. Wright, in his history of Halifax, affirms that the woollen trade was brought hither from Rippon, for the sake of the advantage of coals and water ; and there is a tradition that it first came into Yorkshire out of Devonshire, where it had been settled by some workmen from Flanders. About 17th Edward IV. two fulling mills were erected in Rastrick within this parish ; but the reign of Henry VII. has by some been mentioned as the principal period of the introduction of the woollen manufacture in these parts.

An act, passed in the reign of Philip and Mary, in order to prevent the engrossing of wool by persons of large capitals, gives a lively picture of the state of this country. It recites, “ that the parish of Halifax  
 “ being planted in the great waste and moores, where the fertility of  
 “ the ground is not apt to bring forth any corne nor good grasse, but  
 “ in rare places, and by exceeding and great industry of the inhabi-  
 “ tants ; and the same inhabitants altogether doe live by cloth making ;  
 “ and the greater part of them neither getteth corne, nor is able to  
 “ keepe a horse to carry wools, nor yet to buy much wool at once,  
 “ but hath ever bene used only to repaire to the towne of Hali-  
 “ fax, &c. and there to buy upon the wool driver, some a stone, some  
 I “ two,



“ two, and some three and foure, according to their ability, and to  
 “ carry the same to their houses, some three, foure, five, and six miles  
 “ off, upon their heads and backes, and so to make and convert the  
 “ same either into yarne or cloth, and to sell the same, and so to buy  
 “ more wool of the wool driver, by means of which industry, the  
 “ barren grounds in those parts be now much inhabited, and above  
 “ 500 households there newly increased within these forty yeares past,  
 “ &c. &c.”

This account exhibits a manufacture in its early state, but in a progressive one : and from lord Clarendon’s history we find, that Halifax, with Leeds and Bradford, were called, in the year 1642, “ three very  
 “ populous and rich towns depending wholly on clothiers.” As to the progression of population, it is said in the certificate of the archbishop of York and others, 2d Edward VI. (1548) “ that in the parish  
 “ of Halifax the number of houslyng people is 8500;” and Camden, when he travelled in these parts about 1580, was informed that the number of inhabitants of this parish was about 12,000. Archbishop Grindall, in his letter to queen Elizabeth during the northern rebellion, also says, that the parish of Halifax was ready to bring into the field for her service 3 or 4000 able men. And those who were raised for the parliament, to whose cause Halifax adhered during the civil wars, were numerous enough to be termed in the town register, the *Halifax army*. We shall pursue this subject further hereafter.

The manor of Halifax is parcel of the very extensive one of Wakefield. Great part of it was anciently called the liberty of the forest of Sowerbyshire, or of Hardwick. Within this liberty a very singular custom long prevailed, which was that called *Halifax gibbet-law*. It

sisted in a summary mode of trying and capitally punishing felons (apparently thieves alone) taken within the liberties with the goods found about them, or upon their own confession; and the mode of execution was beheading by means of an instrument called a gibbet, consisting of two upright pieces of timber, joined by a transverse piece, within which was a square block of wood sliding in grooves, worked in the uprights, and armed below with an iron axe. This being drawn up, was let fall suddenly, either by pulling out a pin, or cutting a cord that supported it; and thus the malefactor's head was at once struck off. An engine exactly of the same kind was for some time in use at Edinburgh under the name of *the maiden*; but which was the original, which the copy, is disputed. It has lately been revived with improvements in France, in the too-famous *guillotine*; which appears, however, to have been an original invention of the person whose name it bears. Indeed, the pile-driving engine would readily suggest the idea of it. With respect to this in Halifax, it seems to have been pretty freely used, especially after it became a manufacturing town, against the robbers of tenter grounds. The last executions by it were in 1650. The practice was then put a stop to, the bailiff being threatened with a prosecution if he should repeat it. Forty-nine persons had suffered by it from the first entries in the register in the year 1541. A raised platform of stone on which the gibbet was placed is still remaining in Gibbet-lane.

Halifax is seated in a bottom, on a gentle descent from east to west, in which direction its greatest length extends. Its streets are narrow and irregular; the houses in general built of stone, and some of the more modern ones, large and handsome. The church is a large Gothic structure, of good appearance, at the east end of the town. It has

undergone various alterations and additions at different times. It has a handsome organ, and a tower steeple with eight musical bells. Under the chancel are large rooms upon a level with the lower part of the church-yard, in one of which is a library. Within the church are two chapels, one of them called the Rokesby chapel, in which were buried the heart and bowels of Dr. William Rokesby, vicar of Halifax, and lastly, archbishop of Dublin. The vicarage is in the gift of the crown. It has under it twelve chapels in different parts of the parish. There are also a number of dissenting places of worship within the town, and the parish. There is a free-school in Skircoat, founded by queen Elizabeth; and alms-houses, and blue-coat hospital.

Halifax has a fine piece hall, the area of which is 300 feet by 240. Part of it is three stories high, the remainder two stories; and it contains 315 different rooms in which the manufactured goods of the town and neighbourhood are exposed to sale. It cost £.12,000; and the value of goods at one time in it is reckoned never less than £.50,000. It opens every Saturday at ten o'clock, and shuts at twelve, a bell ringing at both times. There are other markets on Tuesdays and Thursdays; but Halifax is not a market-town by charter, but by prescription.

We shall now proceed to a more particular account of the trade and population of this place in later times.

The shalloon trade was introduced here about the beginning of this century; and what are called figured stuffs and drawboys, within the latter half of it. Formerly much bone-lace was made in Halifax; but this trade fell into a low state, till it was again revived, so as to become no inconsiderable branch. Frame-work knitting was introduced in

1724, and a good deal of work has been done in it. For some time past, the staple manufactory of the place and neighbourhood has been tammies, shalloons, drawboys, known best under the title of figured lastings and amens, superfine quilled everlastings, double ruffsels, serges de Nisime & du Rome. These are all made from combing wool. They are brought in the unfinished state to the piece hall, where the merchants attend every Saturday to purchase. Formerly the greatest part of these goods were bought by the London merchants for the supply of foreigners; but, for the last fifteen or twenty years, dye-houses and other conveniences have been erected by merchants who finish the goods upon the spot, and are thereby able to undersell the London merchant. Of these goods very few in proportion are sold inland. Large quantities go to all the European continent, of which those sent to Cadiz are chiefly exported to Spanish America. Many shalloons go by land to London for the Turkey trade.

There is, besides, a very considerable manufactory of kerseys, and half-thicks, also of Bockings, and baize, principally in the hands of merchants of property in the neighbourhood of Sowerby, and made in the valley from Sowerby-bridge up to Ripponden, and higher. The whole of the British navy is cloathed from this source. Large quantities are also, in time of peace, sent to Holland, and some to America.

But the most promising branch of manufactory is that of cloth and coatings, which has been introduced within these few years by a few persons of enterprize, who have, at vast expense, erected mills on the Calder, and other smaller streams, the falls of water in this uneven country being very favourable for that purpose. The success of these factories has been such as to excite the jealousy of the Leeds merchants, who are accustomed to buy the same articles from the lower manufacturers at their  
cloth

cloth hall; and so aware were they of the danger of competition, that in 1794 a deputation was sent from thence to petition for an act to prevent any merchant from becoming a manufacturer; but on consideration the idea was dropt. It is evident that merchants concentrating in themselves the whole process of a manufactory, from the raw wool to the finished piece, have an advantage over those who permit the article to pass through a variety of hands, each of which takes a profit. This some persons in the vicinity of Leeds now see, and are adopting the same plan. As machinery is now brought to great perfection, numbers of the small manufacturers, who made perhaps a piece in a week, find it more advantageous to work at those factories, where their ingenuity is well rewarded. And it appears evident, that the same number of hands regularly employed, will do more work by one third than when they depend on casual employ. One day in six is always lost to the head of a family by attending the mill, and another by attendance at the market.

It may not be amiss to remark an absurd custom prevailing in the manufactory of broad cloths, which is that of the merchants allowing one yard in every twenty as an indemnity for the length of the cloth being stretched beyond its length from the mill; which has the bad effect of tempting the merchant to stretch the cloth still more in order to gain length, though the quality is injured by it. This practice has thrown the Yorkshire cloth into disrepute, both at home and abroad, and preference has been given to the Gloucestershire fabrics, especially by the East India Company. It is, however, notorious, that this great trading body, who are said to purchase cloths to the amount of £.200,000 per annum, are grossly imposed upon, as the cloths they buy in the West, which measure forty-eight yards in the white, do not when dyed measure,

ture, on the average, so much as forty-five yards. An honest and intelligent manufacturer would be able to prove this fact to them, *that all cloth manufactured honestly will be as long when dyed and finished, as in the white.*

In the year 1764 an exact account was taken of the number of families in the vicarage of Halifax, of which the following is a transcript:

In Halifax	1272 Families	Eland	242 Families.
Skircoat	251 do.	Greetland	118 do.
Warley	487 do.	Old Lindley	41 do.
Midgeley	217 do.	Stainland	197 do.
Sowerby	587 do.	Barkisland	252 do.
Ovenden	597 do.	Soyland	256 do.
Northowram	630 do.	Rushworth	130 do.
Shelf	180 do.	Norland	180 do.
Hipperholm	352 do.	Stansfield	464 do.
Southowram	448 do.	Langfield	137 do.
Brighouse	74 do.	Erringden	177 do.
Rastrick	179 do.	Heptonstall	352 do.
Fixby	55 do.	Wadsworth	388 do.
		Total	8263

On a calculation of 4½ persons to a family, this will give the number of 35,806 inhabitants. The increase since that time must have been very great, but no new enumeration has taken place. However, we have

have been favoured with an extract of the lists of mortality given into the stamp office for two late years, as follows :

In the whole parish of Halifax, from October 2, 1791, to October 1, 1792,        -        -        588 marriages ; 2246 births ; 1273 burials.

In the same, from October 2, 1792, to October 1, 1793,  
524 marriages ; 2350 births ; 1233 burials.

In this list, the births of those who died unregistered, and the burials of paupers, are not included. From the best deduction we can make from these facts, a population of between fifty-five and sixty thousand individuals may be inferred.

Halifax enjoys the benefit of water-carriage to Hull along the Calder, from Sowerby-bridge in its vicinity, the act of parliament for which navigation passed in 1757. Its communications by water will be much extended by the Rochdale canal, now cutting, which will connect the Calder at Sowerby-bridge with the duke of Bridgewater's canal at Manchester, and consequently include the neighbourhood of Halifax in the great system of inland navigation.

The roads about Halifax are generally bad. The farms are mostly small, and occupied by manufacturers for the convenience of keeping a cow or two, and horses for conveyance of their goods. The land is chiefly in meadow pasture grass ; and the cultivation of the ground is only regarded as a secondary object with the occupiers. Coals are found in various parts of the parish.

Halifax has given birth to several persons of eminence, among whom it is sufficient to mention the celebrated *archbishop Tillotson*; *Dr. Henry Brigg*, geometrical professor at Gresham college, and Savilian professor at Oxford; and *Dr. David Hartley*, known among the faculty as the introducer of Mrs. Stephens's medicines for the stone, but much more known of late years on account of his great work entitled, "*Observations on Man*," founded on the doctrine of association, the system of which has been adopted with the highest applause by Dr. Priestley and other ingenious writers.

The history and antiquities of this parish have been treated of in a large quarto volume by the late learned and Rev. John Watson, who long resided here, and died rector of Stockport. From his work several of the materials of the preceding account have been taken.

Near *Horley-green*, a mile and a quarter to the north-east of Halifax, a mineral water has been discovered, on which a pamphlet has been written by Dr. Garnet, of Harrowgate. It appears from his experiments to contain a large proportion of vitriolated iron, besides alum, selenite, and ochre; and is reckoned by him the strongest chalybeate water known.

## BRADFORD.

THIS is a market town situated in Morley wapentake, about half way between Halifax and Leeds. It belonged originally to John of Gaunt. Its market is on Monday, and it has fairs in March and June. The church is a vicarage, and has under it the chapels of Thornton,



Wibsey, and Haworth. Besides the parish church, there are places of worship for dissenters of all denominations, who are numerous. The methodists have a large octagon chapel here.

Bradford is a considerable and populous town, well built of free-stone got from quarries in its neighbourhood, and is inhabited chiefly by manufacturers, many of whom are opulent. The articles it chiefly deals in are tammies and calamancoes, manufactured in its neighbourhood, and sold in its market, in the same manner as the Halifax stuffs, and exported with them. This trade has undergone a temporary diminution from the war; but the return of peace and free exportation would certainly make it revive again. A branch of the Leeds and Liverpool canal was extended to Bradford several years since.

The land about Bradford is possessed by small proprietors, and occupied by small farmers and manufacturers. It is almost all in grass, and cows are the principal stock kept. Where it is in tillage, oats are the most common crop. The country is all in enclosure.

In the parish a very capital iron foundry and forge has lately been established, which has the advantage of coal and iron ore got on the spot, and is a very profitable concern. Coals abound in this neighbourhood, and large quantities are sent by means of the canal into Craven, from whence lime-stone is brought in return.

of the church of England is read by two unordained preachers, educated at the expence of the late countess of Huntingdon.

The parish is governed by a corporation, consisting of a mayor, twelve aldermen, and twenty-four common council, who fill up the vacancies in their body, and annually elect the mayor from the aldermen by a majority of votes. As there are no freemen, every inhabitant is eligible to serve in the corporation, and in return is not liable to be summoned to serve upon any jury out of the parish.

The market days are Tuesday and Saturday for mixed cloths, that is, cloths made of dyed wool; and Tuesday only, for white cloths. The mixed cloths in the last century were exposed for sale on the battlements of the bridge over the Aire, and as the manufactory increased, were removed to the large street called Briggate, subject to the inconvenience of bad weather, and of being stored in adjoining cellars from one market day to another. The white cloths were sold in a room. Each of them is now deposited in a separate covered hall, erected for the purpose, where they remain without disturbance till sold.

The mixed cloth hall was erected at the expence of the manufacturers in 1758. It is a quadrangular building, enclosing an open area. The building is 127½ yards in length, and sixty-six in breadth; and is divided into six covered streets, each of which contains two rows of stands, the freehold property of separate manufacturers. Each stand is twenty-two inches in front, and the whole number is 1770; but as about twenty individuals are in possession of two stands each, the number of master manufacturers of mixed cloth, proprietors of the hall, must not be estimated at more than 1750. These have all served a regular

gular apprenticeship to the making of coloured cloth, which is an indispensable condition of their admission into the hall. Another small hall has lately been erected for the accommodation of irregulars, and near 100 stands are already let. Each stand originally cost the proprietor 3*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, but they are now worth 5*l.* 10*s.*

The present white cloth hall was built in 1775. It is a quadrangle like the other, ninety-nine yards in length, and seventy in breadth, and is divided into five streets, each with a double row of stands, the number of which is 1210; but there are generally about forty persons who have two stands each. There are supposed to be about 200 mixed, and more than 100 white cloth manufacturers, of an inferior description, who have served a regular apprenticeship, but having no property in the halls, pay a fixed fee for every piece of cloth they expose to sale.

The whole number of master broad-cloth manufacturers, in the West-Riding of Yorkshire is about 3240. The mixed cloth manufacturers reside partly in the villages belonging to the parish of Leeds; but chiefly at Morley, Guilderstone, Adwalton, Driglington, Pudsey, Farsley, Calverley, Eccleshal, Idle, Baildon, Yeadon, Guisely, Rawdon, and Horsforth, in or bordering upon the vale of Aire, chiefly west of Leeds; and at Batley, Dewsbury, Offet, Horbury, and Kirkburton, west of Wakefield, in or near the vale of Calder. Not a single manufacturer is to be found more than one mile east, or two north, of Leeds; nor are there many in the town of Leeds, and those only in the outskirts.

The white cloth is manufactured chiefly at Alverthorpe, Offet, Kirkheaton, Dewsbury, Batley, Birstal, Hopton, Mirfield, Archet, Clackheaton,

heaton, Littleton, Bowling, and Shipley ; a tract of country forming an oblique belt across the hills that separate the vale of Calder from the vale of Aire, beginning about a mile west of Wakefield, leaving Huddersfield and Bradford a little to the left, terminating at Shipley on the Aire, and not coming within less than about six miles of Leeds on the right. The districts of the white and coloured cloth manufactory are generally distinct, but are a little intermixed at the south-east and north-west extremities.

The cloths are sold in their respective halls rough as they come from the fulling mills. They are finished by the merchants, who employ dressers, dyers, &c. for that purpose ; these, with drysalers, shopkeepers, and the different kind of handicraftsmen common to every town, compose the bulk of the inhabitants of Leeds. The dispersed state of the manufacturers in villages and single houses over the whole face of the country, is highly favourable to their morals and happiness. They are generally men of small capitals, and often annex a small farm to their other business ; great numbers of the rest have a field or two to support a horse and a cow, and are for the most part blessed with the comforts, without the superfluities, of life.

The markets of Leeds are well supplied with all kinds of provision, partly from the neighbouring agricultural district to the east, and partly from a distance up the Aire. The whole country from Leeds westward into Lancashire, does not produce grain or feed cattle sufficient to supply one-fifth of the inhabitants.

The medium price of the best beef is from fivepence to sixpence per pound ; mutton and veal fourpence halfpenny ; pork, sixpence :  
upon

upon an average, about a halfpenny a pound dearer than York, and as much cheaper than Manchester.

Leeds has a general infirmary, built by subscription in 1768, and well attended and supported. Also an excellent workhouse, an hospital, alms-houses, charity schools, and other institutions belonging to a great town. It is built of brick, and contains many large and handsome modern houses. From the beginning of the century Leeds has enjoyed the benefit of water-carriage by means of the river Aire, which has been improved by successive acts, the last of which, authorizing a canal from the lower part of the Aire to the Ouse at Selby, passed in 1774.

Its population has kept pace with the general increase of the cloathing trade, as will appear from the following extract from the bills of mortality :

An account of the births and burials in the township of Leeds from 1763 to 1794, including protestant dissenters of all denominations.

Year.	Births.	Bur.	Year.	Births.	Bur.
1764	553	445	1773	699	660
1765	576	459	1774	630	478
1766	584	533	1775	705	574
1767	557	639	1776	712	475
1768	552	560	1777	710	634
1769	637	478	1778	781	656
1770	621	587	1779	709	686
1771	689	533	1780	742	591
1772	650	544	1781	738	673

Year.

Year.	Bir.	Bur.	Year.	Bir.	Bur.
1782	741	600	1788	933	784
1783	725	682	1789	993	671
1784	830	603	1790	1139	969
1785	860	727	1791	1142	688
1786	940	674	1792	1171	929
1787	895	712	1793	1190	1129

Number of houses in the year 1793, counted from the workhouse book, where all that are inhabited are inserted, 6691.

The soil of the parish of Leeds is a coarse, strong clay, sometimes covering a finer stratum, which is made into pipes, and an inferior kind of pottery, in the neighbourhood. Its northern border is sandy, extending nearly to the ridge which separates Airedale from Wharfedale, and is a process from the great line of hills that form the back bone of the north of England. The higher part of it is incapable of cultivation. That part of the parish which lies south of the Aire abounds in coal; and to the cheapness of this indispensable mineral, the flourishing state of the manufactory is to be attributed. It is delivered at the coal staith in the town, at 13s. per waggon load. The waggon is supposed to contain twenty-four corves, and the weight of a corve is near two hundred weight and a half.

There are in the parish several quarries of an argillaceous schist, which supply the neighbourhood and the country down the river with slates and flag-stones for paving. On the north-east border begins a bed of imperfect granite, or moor-stone, of the same kind as that on the east moor in Derbyshire, which runs to the Chevin near Otley, and forms

the whole ridge of Romald's-moor as far as Skipton, where the limestone commences. On each side, as you approach the level of the rivers Aire and Wharfe, the argillaceous schist occurs, which is evidently a stratum incumbent on the granite. The stone on the south of the Aire is entirely argillaceous schist, as probably is generally the case where coal is found. The land in the greater part of the parish is extremely rich, and on account of the plenty of manure and the populousness of the country, is of course in a high state of cultivation.

Besides the smaller potteries which work up the lower stratum of clay, there is a very considerable one for pottery of a finer kind, the proprietors of which, on account of the cheapness of coal, find it worth their while to bring pot clay and flints from the west and south of England, and export large quantities of goods to Holland, Germany, Russia, &c.

There are also in the town two carpet manufactories; and a large work has lately been erected for spinning flax by machinery.

On the river Aire and the streams that fall into it, there are numerous mills for grinding corn, dyer's-wood, rape seed, &c. and also for fulling cloth, and turning machinery to spin and card wool. Several cotton mills have been lately erected, but these are worked chiefly by the means of steam engines.

The only remarkable antiquity in the parish is *Kirkstall Abbey*, of which an account may be seen in Thoresby's *Ducatus Leodiensis*. It was a religious house of the Cistercian order, founded in 1157 by Henry

de Lacy, and situated in a beautiful vale watered by the Aire. There are large remains of the church, a fine gothic building.

At *Fulneck*, near *Pudsey*, between Leeds and Bradford, is a considerable settlement of the Moravian brethren, which was begun about 1748, principally by some Germans, but is now almost entirely peopled by English, most of them natives of the place. The chief buildings are the *hall*, containing a chapel, a school for girls, and minister's dwelling: a large school-house for boys; a house for single men; another for single women; and another for widows; situated upon a terrace of considerable length, and commanding a fine prospect. These, with the houses for separate families, form a considerable village, the number inhabiting which is from four to five hundred. Various branches of trade are carried on in it, as shoemakers, taylors, bakers, &c.; but the chief employment is the woollen manufacture. The single women are famous for their skill in working muslins with the needle and tambour, and their labours sell at a high price. The vocal and instrumental music of the settlement is reckoned very excellent.

## WAKEFIELD.

NEARLY south of Leeds, at the distance of eight miles, stands the town of Wakefield, on the side of a hill declining to the Calder. It is an ancient town, and once belonged to the Warrens, earls of Surry. From Leland's description, it seems in his time to have been the principal town in these parts, having then a fair large church and a chapel of ease; with a handsome area for a market place. The buildings were



then mostly of timber, but some of stone; and it is called by him “ a very quick market town, and meately large, the whole profit of which standeth by coarse drapery.”

Wakefield is now considered as one of the handsomest and most opulent of the clothing towns, being inhabited by several capital merchants, who have costly and elegant houses. It is large and populous, and possesses a considerable share of business. It has a good bridge over the Calder, on which stands an ancient chapel with gothic sculptures, commonly said to have been built by Edward IV. in memory of his father, but existing in the reign of Edward III. It is now disused as a place of worship. Its church is large and lofty. The living is a vicarage in the gift of the king. The lectureship is in the gift of the Mercer's Company, London. There is one chapelry in the parish, that of Horbury. In the town are meetings for various sects of dissenters. There is a charity school supported by subscription.

The markets in Wakefield are on Thursday and Friday. A great deal of business is done at them, particularly in the sale of wool, which is sent from all parts of England to factors in this place, who dispose of it among the manufacturers in the different districts around. The goods principally brought to this market are tammies and camlets, and also some white cloths. But the greater part of the white cloths made in its neighbourhood, particularly on the west, are sent to the Leeds market. The fortnight cattle-fairs of Wakefield have already been mentioned, as supplying a great tract of country westwards with butcher's meat.

The Calder was made navigable to this town at the end of last century. A canal is now cutting from Wakefield to Barnesley. The banks of the Calder here are a tract of fine meadows.

Near this town was fought the battle between queen Margaret and the duke of York, in which the latter was slain, and his son, the young earl of Rutland, was put to death in cold blood by the barbarous Clifford. The duke lay before the battle at *Sandall-castle*, near Wakefield, an ancient fortress built by the earls Warren, of which a few fragments only now remain. It is said to have been demolished in the last civil wars.

Across the Calder, about two miles from Wakefield, is the village of *Heath*, reckoned one of the most beautiful in England. It is situated on an eminence above the Calder, here a considerable river, commanding an extensive and delightful view of the rich and populous country around. The village is built by the side of a green, the houses being all of stone found on the spot. Of these the principal are those of the late Sir G. Dalton, now Mr. Dillon's, built in the reign of queen Elizabeth; of John Smyth, Esq. one of the lords of the treasury; and of Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Hopkinson. The two first of these have extensive pleasure-grounds sloping to the water, with walks through the woods on its banks.

The Calder is the eastern boundary of the woollen manufacture, which extends hence to the ridge of hills separating Lancashire and Yorkshire. The immense importance of this trade, and its late rapid progress, will appear from the annexed paper, to which we shall premise the fact, that in 1769. the quantity of broad cloth stamped was only 1,771,667 yards.

An

An account of the number of broad and narrow woollen cloths milled at the several fulling mills in the West-Riding of the county of York from the 25th day of March, 1787, to the 25th day of March, 1793.

Years.	BROADS.		NARROWS.	
	Pieces.	Yards.	Pieces.	Yards.
1788	139,406	4,244,322	132,143	4,208,303
1789	154,134	4,716,460	145,495	4,409,573
1790	172,588	5,151,677	140,407	4,582,122
1791	187,569	5,815,079	154,373	4,797,594
1792	203,623	6,383,589	156,475	5,153,944
1793	214,851	6,760,728	190,468	5,531,698
1794	190,988	6,067,208	130,403	4,634,258

N. B. The above account is made up from 25th of March, 1787, to March, 1788, and so annually to March, 1794. Kerseymeres are not included.

## A D D I T I O N S.

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**T**HE subsequent articles came to hand too late to be inserted in their proper places, but were thought too important to be omitted.

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## C A N A L S.

*Barnsley Canal.* In 1793 an act passed for a canal to proceed from the Calder below Wakefield, and passing Crofton, Felkirk, and Royfton, to arrive at Barnsley, whence it is to make a bend to Barnby-bridge, near Cawthorn, where it is to join another new canal, called the *Dearne and Dove canal*, which goes from Barnsley to the river Dun. The length of the *Barnsley canal* is about fourteen miles; its fall from the junction with the *Dearne and Dove canal*, to the Calder, is 120 feet. There are several rail ways for the conveyance of coal to the canal from Barnsley, and others from Barnby-bridge. It is now cutting.

*Haslingden Canal.* An act in 1793 authorises the cutting of a canal from the Bury and Bolton Canal on the west side of Bury, through Walmsley, Tottington, Haslingden, and Accrington, till it joins the Leeds and Liverpool canal at Church, after a course of thirteen miles. The undertakers are forbid to make any locks or similar works, and in their

their stead are to employ the machinery of rollers, racks, or inclined planes ; but if it be hereafter found expedient to construct locks, they may do it, on consent obtained from three-fourths of the owners of the mills on certain streams.

*Lancaster Canal Extension.* By an act passed in 1793 the proprietors of the Lancaster canal are enabled to make a cut from the dock at Glasson, at the mouth of the Loyne, to communicate with the Lancaster canal at Galgate, which is about six miles to the south of Lancaster. This cut will be about four miles in length, and will establish an immediate communication between that canal and the sea.

*Manchester and Oldham Canal Extension.* Under the head of the Oldham and Ashton canal from Manchester, it is mentioned that a design was entertained of cutting a branch to Stockport. Powers for this purpose were given by an act passed in 1793, enabling the proprietors to make a canal from the Manchester and Oldham canal at Clayton demesne, in the parish of Manchester, to Heaton Norris, near Manchester, which distance is about six miles, and parallel to the turnpike road ; also, to continue this canal eastward to Denton, a distance of about three miles ; likewise to make a cut from the Oldham branch, to Stake-Leach in Hollingwood, a distance of about two miles.

*Duke of Bridgewater's canal from Worsley to Leigh.* An act passed in 1795, authorises the duke to cut a branch from his canal at Worsley, to the township of Pennington near Leigh. The tonnage of goods of all kinds carried on this canal is not to exceed 2s. 6d. per ton.

## MANCHESTER.

*Bill of Mortality from the earliest Periods,*

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Marr.	Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Marr.
1580	206	158	50	1772	1127	904	427
1590	201	264	25	1773	1168	923	383
1600	210	141	72	1774	1245	958	422
1605	175	1078	61 Pl.	1775	1359	835	473
1610	275	172	63	1776	1241	1220	494
1620	297	284	96	1777	1513	864	577
1630	310	195	71	1778	1449	975	484
1640	303	297	86	1779	1464	1288	448
1645	143	1212	67 Pl.	1780	1566	993	456
1650	144	182	35	1781	1591	1370	495
1660	162	135	37	1782	1678	984	567
1670	188	149	176	1783	1615	1496	682
1680	185	264	66	1784	1958	1175	843
1690	173	183	64	1785	1942	1734	893
1700	231	229	133	1786	2319	1282	872
1710	211	235	128	1787	2256	1761	903
1720	290	273	148	1788	2391	1637	968
1730	305	548	210	1789	2487	1788	920
1740	552	700	194	1790	2756	1940	1120
1750	740	902	279	1791	2960	2286	1302
1760	793	818	380	1792	2660	1605	1657
1770	1050	988	429	1793	2579	1491	1234
1771	1169	993	429	1794	2041	1241	1066

During the years marked (Pl.) the plague was in Manchester. There is a tradition, that for 200 years before this copy commences, the population was upon an average much the same with that stated the first year in this account, neither greatly increasing nor diminishing.

*Copy of Thomas Grelle's Grant to the Burgesſes of Mancheſter.*

SCIANT preſentes et futuri quod ego Thomas Grelle dedi et conceſſi et hac preſenti carta mea confirmavi omnibus burgenſibus meis Manceſtrienſis Scill.—quod omnes burgenſes reddent de quolibet burgagio ſuo duodecim denarios per annum pro omni ſervitio.

Et ſi præfectus villæ aliquem burgenſem calumpniaverit de aliquo placito, et calumpniatus non venerit ad diem nec aliquis pro eo infra Laghmot in foris factura eſt de duodecim denariis prædicto domino et prædictus dominus habeat placitum ſuum ſuper eum in Portemanmot.

Item, ſi aliquis burgenſis aliquem burgenſem implacitaverit de aliquo debito et ipſe cognoverit debitum præfectus ponat ei diem ſcill. octavum, et ſi non venerit ad diem reddat duodecim denarios pro foris factura die prædicto domino et reddat debitum et præfecto octo denarios.

Et ſi aliquis faciat clamorem de aliqua re et non invenerit vadium et plegios et poſtea velit dimittere clamorem ſine foris factura erit.

Item, ſi aliquis burgenſis in burgo aliquem burgenſem vulneraverit in die dominica vel a nona die Sabatti uſque ad diem lunæ ipſe erit in foris factura viginti ſolidos. Et ſi in die lunæ vel in aliis diebus ſeptimanæ vulneraverit aliquem ipſe cadet in foris factura duodecim denarios verſus prædictum dominum.

Item, ſi aliquis burgenſis cum aliquo certaverit et per iram eum percufferit ſine ſanguinis effuſione et ad domum ſuam redire poſſit ſine calumnia præfecti aut famulorum ſuorum liber erit de placito præpoſiti ;

et si guerram alius cui commisit sustinere poterit bene potest fieri, sine autem per consilium amicorum suorum cum eo pacem faciat et hoc sine foris factura præfecti.

Item, si aliquis implacitatus fuerit in burgo de aliquo placito non respondeat nec burgenſi villano nisi in ſuo Portemanmot, nec etiam vaſori excepto placito quod ad coronam regis pertinat et de latrocinio.

Item si aliquis vocat aliquem burgenſem de latrocinio præfectus attachiat eum ad respondendum in curia domini et stare indicio.

Item si aliquis implacitatus fuerit de vicino ſuo vel de aliquo et tres dies ſecutus fuerit ſi teſtimonium habuerit de præpoſito et de vicinis ſuis de Portemanmot quod Adverſarius ſuus defectus ſit ad hos tres dies nullum poſtea det reſponſum et de placito illo.

Item burgenſes prædicti ſequentur molendinum domini prædicti et ejus furnum reddendo conſuetudines prædicti molendini et prædicti furni ut debent et ſolent.

Item, burgenſes debent et poſſunt præpoſitum eligere de ſeipſis quem voluerint et præpoſitum remove.

Item, nullus poteſt vicinum ſuum ducere ad ſacramentum niſi habeat ſectam de aliquo clamore.

Item, nullus poteſt<sup>\*</sup> aliquid recipere infra villam niſi per viſum præpoſiti.



Item, liceat cuilibet terram suam quæ non est de hereditate vendere vel dare si necessitas inciderit cuicunque voluerit nisi hæres eam emere voluerit, sed hæres debet esse propinquior ad eam emendam.

Item, quilibet potest vendere de hereditate sua siue majus, siue minus, siue totum per consensum hæredis sui. Et si forsitan hæres voluerit tamen si necessitas inciderit licebit ei vendere de hereditate sua de quacunque ætate hæres fuerit.

Item, præpositus debet cui libet tradere burgenfi et censario sendas suas in foro et præpositus debet inde recipere unum denarium ad opus prædicti domini.

Item, si burgenfis vel censarius voluerit stare in senda mercatoris ipse debet pacare prædicto domino quantumeunque extraneus, et si stet in propria senda tunc nil daturus est prædicto domino.

Item, burgenfes possunt nutrire porcos suos prope nutritos in boscis domini exceptis forestis et parcis domini prædicti usque ad terminum pannagii et si velint ad prædictum terminum discedere, liceat eis absque licentia domini et si velint moram facere ad terminum pannagii de pannagio satisfaciant prædicto domino.

Item, si aliquis implacitatus fuerit ante dies Laghmot et tunc venerit oportet eum respondere et non debet se effoniare sine foris factura et si tunc primo implacitatus fuerit tunc habeat primum diem.

Item, burgenfes possunt namare homines siue milites siue sacerdotes siue clericos, pro debitis suis si inventi fuerint in burgo.

Item, si necessitas inciderit quod aliquis vendat burgagium suum ipse potest de vicino suo aliud burgagium recipere et quilibet burgenfis potest tradere burgagium suum vicinis suis per visum comburgenfium.

Item, liceat prædictis burgenfibus tradere cattalla sua propria cuicunque voluerint in feodo prædicti domini libere et sine licentia prædicti domini.

Item, si burgenfis homini villano aliquid commodaverit in burgo et terminus inde transivit in burgo sumat namium de villano et per namium suum certificat eum et reddat namium per plegios usque ad terminum octo dierum et tunc reddat plegii sive namium sive denarios.

Item, burgenfis de quocunque emerit vel venundaverit in feodo prædicti domini liber erit a tolneto.

Et si aliquis de alia shiria venerit qui debeat consuetudinem reddere si cum tolneto decesserit et retentus a præfecto vel ab alio ejus foris factura erit duodecim solidos ad opus domini et reddat tolnetum suum.

Et si aliquis alii aliquid accomodaverit sine testimonio quicquam non respondebit ei nisi habuerit testimonium et si testimonium habuerit per sacramentum duorum hominum potest negare.

Item, qui fregit assisam sive de pane sive de cerevisia ipse erit in foris factura duodecim denarios ad opus domini.

Item, si aliquis alium vulneraverit in burgo præpositus debet attachiare eum si inventus fuerit extra domum suam per vadium et plegios.

Item,

Item, quilibet debet et potest esse ad placitum pro sponsa sua et pro familia sua, et sponsa cujusslibet potest firmam suam reddere præposito et placitum sequi pro sponso suo si ipse forsitan aliunde fuerit.

Item, si aliquis villanus burgenfes calumpniatus fuerit de aliquo, burgenfes non debent respondere ei nisi habuerit sectam de burgenfibus vel aliis legalibus hominibus.

Item, burgenfis si non habuerit hæredem ipse poterit legare burgagium suum et cattalla cum moritur ubicunque sibi placuerit salvo tamen domini servitio.

Item, si aliquis burgenfis moriatur sponsa ejus debet manere in domo et ibi habeat necessaria quamdiu voluerit esse sine marito, et hæres cum illa et ex quo illa voluerit maritari ipsa decedet et hæres ut dominus ibi manebit.

Item, si burgenfis moriatur hæres ejus nullum aliud relevium dabit prædicto domino nisi alicujusmodi arma.

Item, si burgenfis vendat burgagium suum et velit a villa decedere dabit domino quatuor denarios et liber ibit ubicunque voluerit.

Præterea omnia placita prædicta erunt determinata coram seneschallo per rotulationem clerici prædicti domini.

Et omnes libertates prænominatas ego prædictus Thomas et Hæredes mei tenebimus prædictis burgenfibus et hæredibus suis in perpetuum.  
salvo.

salvo mihi et hæredibus meis rationabili tallagio quando dominus rex fecerit tallagium per liberos burgos suos per Angliam.

Et ut hæc donatio et concessio rata sit et stabilis sigilli mei appositione hoc scriptum roboravi. Hiis testibus dominis. Johanne Byron; Ricardo Byron, militibus; Henrico de Trafford; Ric: de Hulton; Ric: de Prestwyche; Rogero de Pylkington; Galfro de Chaterton; Ric: de Moston; Johe de Prestwyche, et aliis. Datum apud Mancestr: quarto decimo die Maij, anno domini millesimo tricentesimo primo, et anno regni regis Edwardi filii Henricis regis viceffimo nono.

(L. S.)

14th May, 1301.

Thomas Grelle's Grant of the Custom of the Mannor pt of Manchester,  
Endorsement upon the Grant.

Between the Right Hon. George Earl of	] In the dutchy of Lancaf.
Warrington and others, - - - - Plts.	
and	
Sir Oswald Moseley, Bart. - - - - Deft.]	
	at Westminster,
	at Manchester.

September 24th, 1733. Shewn on the Execution of a Commission in this Cause on the Defendant's behalf, and deposed unto by Mr. Richard Davenport,

Before us,

George Haydon,  
Thomas Starkie,  
William Shaw.

TRANS-

TRANSLATION OF THE ABOVE.\*

ALL they that be present and to come, know that I, Thomas Grelle, have given, granted, and by this my present charter have confirmed to all my burgesses of Manchester,

That is to say, .

That all the burgesses shall pay of every burgage twelve pence by the year for all service, .

And if the burgreeve, governor, or ruler of the said town summon any burgess of any plaint, and he so summoned come not, nor none for him, at the day within the lachmot, he shall forfeit to the said lord twelve pence, and the said lord shall have his action upon him in the portmoot.

If any burgess do sue any burgess of any debt, and he acknowledge the debt, then shall the said governor or ruler assign him a day, (to wit) the eighth, and if he come not at the day, he shall pay to the lord twelve pence for forfeiture of the day, and he shall pay the debt, and to the said governor or ruler eight pence.

And if any man make claim of any thing, and shall not find sureties or pledges, and afterwards would leave his claim, he shall be without forfeiture.

Item, if any burgess in the borough, on the Sunday or from nine o'clock on Sunday until Monday, do hurt any burgess, he shall forfeit

\* Made by the Rev. Mr. Whitaker, the historian of Manchester.

twenty shillings. And if upon Monday or any other day of the week he do hurt any person, he shall forfeit to the said lord twelve pence.

Item, if any burgeses shall strive with any man and with anger strike him, without any effusion of blood, and afterwards flee to his own house without any attachment of the said governor, or ruler, or of his servants, he shall be free from any plaint of the ruler. And if he can agree with the party of whom he maketh the fray, (well be it) but if he can make his peace with the party by the counsel of his friends, he may do it without forfeiture to the governor or ruler.

And if any man be impleaded in the borough of any plaint, he shall not answer neither to a burgeses nor to a villain, unless in the portmoot, except plaint pertaining to the king's crown or to theft.

Item, and if any man do challenge any burgeses of theft, the said governor or ruler shall attach him for to answer at the lord's court and to stand to his evidence.

And if any man be impleaded by his neighbour or by any others, and follow the same three court-days, if he have witness of the ruler and his neighbours of the portmoot that his adversary is in default at those three days, the said defendant shall make no answer unto him of the same plaint.

Also the said burgeses shall follow (or do suit to) the lord's mill and his common oven, and shall pay their customs to the said mill and oven as they ought and were wont to do.

Item, the burgesſes ought and may choſe a reeve of themſelves whom they will, and to remove the reeve.

Item, no man may bring his neighbour to any oath unleſs he have ſuit of ſome claim.

Item, no man may receive any thing within the town but by view of the reeve.

Item, it ſhall be lawful to every man to ſell or give his lands which are not of his inheritance, if need be, to whom he will, except his heir will buy it, but the heir ought to be the next or neareſt of kin to buy it.

Item, every man may ſell of his inheritance be it more, or leſs, or all, by the conſent of his heir. And if peradventure the heir will not, notwithstanding if he fall in neceſſity it ſhall be lawful for him to ſell of his inheritance what age ſoever the heir be.

Item, the reeve ought to let to every burgesſ and ſtander his ſtall in the market, and the ſaid reeve ought to receive for every ſtanding a penny to the uſe of the ſaid lord.

Item, if the burgesſ or ſtander will ſtand in the ſtalls of the market, he ought to pay unto the ſaid lord as much as a ſtranger; and if he ſtand in his own ſtall, he ought to pay nothing unto the ſaid lord.

Item, every burgesſ may nourish his hegs of his own bringing up in the lord's woods, except the foreſts and parks of the ſaid lord, unto

the time of pannage; and if they will at that time go their way, it shall be lawful for them without the license of the lord; and if they will tarry the time of that pannage, they shall agree or recompense the said lord for their pannage.

Item, if any man be impleaded before the day of the laghmot and then cometh, he must answer, and ought not to be affined without forfeiture, and if it be the first time that he be impleaded, he may have the first day.

Item, the burgeses may arrest men, whether they be knights, priests, or clerks, for their debts, if they be found in the borough.

Item, if necessity fall that any sell his burgage, he may take another of his neighbour, and every burges may let his burgage to his neighbour by view of his fellow burgeses.

And it shall be lawful to the said burgeses to let their own proper chattels within the fee of the said lord to whom they will freely without license of the said lord.

Item, if a burges lend any thing unto any villain in the borough, and the day be expired, he may take a gage of the said villain, and by his gage he shall certify and deliver the gage upon surety unto the term of eight days, and then the sureties shall answer either the gage or the money.

Item, if a burges do either buy or sell to any man within the fee of the said lord, he shall be free of the toll.

And



And if any of any other shire come, the which ought to pay custom; if he go away with the toll and be retained by the governor, or ruler, or any others, he shall forfeit twelve shillings to the use of the lord, and pay his toll.

And if any person do lend any thing to another without witness, he shall answer him nothing, unless he shall have witness, and if he have, the party may deny it upon oaths of two men.

He that breaketh assize either of bread or ale, shall forfeit twelve pence to the use of the lord.

Item, if any man hurt another in the borough, the governor or ruler ought to attach him, if he may be found without his house, by gage or by surety.

Item, every man ought and may answer for his wife, and his household, and the wife of any man may give up his farm to the reeve, and follow any plaint or action for her husband, if he peradventure be absent in another place.

Item, if any villain shall sue burgeses for any thing, the burges is not bound to answer him, except it be at the suit of burgeses or of other lawful men.

Item, if a burges have no heir, he may bequeath his burgage and chattels when he dieth to whom he will, saving only service of the lord.

Item, if any burgeſſs die his wife ought to remain in the houſe, and there to have neceſſaries as long as ſhe will be without a huſband, and the heir with her, and when ſhe will marry ſhe ſhall depart; and the heir ſhall remain there as maſter.

Item, if any burgeſſs ſhall die, his heir ſhall pay no other relief to the lord but ſome kind of arms.

Item, if any burgeſſs ſell his burgage, and will depart from the town, he ſhall give to the lord four pence, and ſhall go free where he will.

Furthermore, all complaints aforeſaid ſhall be determined before the ſteward by the enrollment of the ſaid lord's clerk.

And all the ſaid liberties I, the ſaid Thomas, and my heirs, ſhall keep to the ſaid burgeſſes and their heirs for ever, ſaving to me and my heirs reaſonable tallage or taxes when the lord the king maketh tallage, or taxeth his free burgeſſes through England.

And that this my gift and grant may be ratified and eſtabliſhed, to this, my preſent writing, I have cauſed my ſeal to be ſet, theſe being witneſſes,

Sir John Byron, }  
 Richard Byron, }  
 Henry, of Trafford,  
 Richard, of Hulton,  
 Adam, of Preſtwich,

Roger, of Pilkington,  
 Geoffry, of Chadderton,  
 Richard, of Moſton,  
 John, of Preſtwich,  
 and others.

**Dated**

Dated at Manchester, the fourteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand three hundred and one; and in year of the reign of king Edward, son of king Henry, the twenty-ninth.

On the bottom fold of the original deed, to which the seal is affixed, are these words wrote, viz..

Lett this be inrolled and exemplified, per vidimus sexto decimo die Septembri 1623. viceffimo primo Jacobi regis Angli, &c.

Chr. Baneifter.

## LIVERPOOL.

### I.—*Its Charters.*

LIVERPOOL is said to be a borough by prescription, but its first charter was granted by king John in the 9th year of his reign. Several succeeding monarchs have granted either new charters or charters of confirmation. Those previous to the reign of Charles I. are, the charters of Henry III. Edward III. Richard II. Henry IV. Confirmation, Henry IV. Charter, Philip and Mary.

The general purport of these charters is the establishment of a free borough, and of a guild-merchant in Liverpool. Some of them also grant an exclusive privilege of trade, *and that no person who shall not be of that guild, shall do any merchandize there without the consent of the burgesſes*; but the charters of Richard II. and William and Mary, expreſſly except ſuch prohibitory claufe.

Under.

Under these charters the affairs of the corporation were anciently transacted by general meetings of the burgeses at large, assembled in common hall; where they chose their officers annually, on St. Luke's day, and made bye laws for the good government of the town. These meetings were in all probability not very numerous; but as the population of the town increased, the inhabitants found it necessary to intrust the direction of some part of their public business to a select body, who were yearly nominated, and varied in number as circumstances required. In the year 1558 (as appears by a letter from the corporation to queen Elizabeth) there were only thirteen vessels belonging to the port, viz. one of 100, one of fifty, and eleven under thirty tons; and in 1665, the whole number of freemen was 184. In the former-mentioned year, *sixteen persons were chosen to be a privy council*, and it was afterwards ordered that *twelve burgeses should be every year named, to order all things necessary for the common hall*: this number was afterwards again changed to sixteen; but notwithstanding these delegations, common halls, or public meetings of the inhabitants, still continued to be held for the general transaction of the business of the town.

The first indication of the existence of a common council appears in a bye law, or resolution, made in the mayoralty of *Edward Halsall*, in 1759; which states, *that there had formerly been a custom that the town should be ordered by a common council, without the rest of the commonality, as in other corporations, but that such custom had been so defaced by the usurpations of the commons, that in effect there remaineth no memory thereof at all; saving that twenty-four burgeses once every year being impaneled, &c. have for some remembrance of the said former customs taken upon them to prescribe rules and orders for the go-*

*vernment of the town.* It is then ordered *that the late usurped assemblies shall be abolished, and the ancient custom of common council restored;* and that in case of vacancy, by death or otherwise, the rest of the council shall choose another to supply the place.

This singular bye law, or order, upon which the common council of the present day are said to found their right to elect the members of their own body, by whatever authority it was ordained, did not prevent the burgessees from continuing to assemble together and frequently transacting their own concerns, till the year 1626; when Charles I. granted the charter, which is yet considered as the constitution of the place. By this charter, he gives to the *mayor, bailiffs, and burgessees*, a power of making bye laws for the government of the town; but no notice whatever is taken of any select body acting as a common council, nor is any common council there appointed. In the following year the burgessees, however, met together, and nominated a common council, who, under such authority, but not under that of the charter, took upon them the direction of the concerns of the corporation, and frequently filled the vacancies that arose in their own number. In 1662, several of the aldermen and common council-men, together with the town-clerk, were removed from their offices, by commissioners appointed under the 13th of Charles II. for refusing to take the oath therein prescribed, from which it may be inferred that they were at this time considered as established officers of the corporation.

The common council, thus purified by the court, seem to have formed a plan for vesting in themselves and their associates all the powers of the corporate body, independent of the burgessees; which they effectually accomplished by obtaining a new charter from king Charles II.

in 1677, which appointed in exprefs terms a common council, to confift of fixty perfons, who were therein nominated, thirty of whom, together with the mayor and bailiffs, *fhould have power to elect and name the mayor, bailiffs, common council, and freemen of the town*; thereby centering the whole power of the corporation in the common council themfelves. The burgefles at large protefted againft this charter, even feveral of the council-men therein named refufed to act under it, and fome tumults took place in the town; but the fpirit of the times ftifled all oppofition, and the common council continued to exercife the whole authority, till the charter of William III. introduced other regulations.

It feems, however, that the corporation were not yet thought fufficiently dependent on the court, for in 1684 chief juftice Jefferies demanded, on the part of the king, a furrender of the charter, which was delivered up to him, and immediately returned to the mayor. This being fupposed to be a furrender of the privileges of the town, application was made to king James II. for a new charter, which was accordingly obtained, and which directed that the common council *fhould confift of fixty-one, including the mayor and two bailiffs*, and that the council *fhould be elected by fuch perfons as had theretofore been accuftomed to elect them*, or in other words, granting them an exprefs power to elect each other, in perpetuity. But the moft extraordinary part of the charter is a refervation of a power in the king to remove *all the officers of the corporation at pleafure*. This power he did not fail to exercife, by removing fuch as were obnoxious to him; which fo alarmed the council, that on the 12th of September, 1688, they made an order, *That with all due fubmiffion and humble deference to the power of removing any officer in this corporation, James Prefcott, Efq.*

*mayor for the time being shall safely keep the wand, mace, and sword, with all other real and personal estate of the corporation, and all that concerns the same, for the defence of its rights wherewith he is now intrusted, until a successor be legally chosen and sworn, according to our present charter and the ancient custom of this corporation.*

Soon after the revolution, the common council obtained a new exemplification of the charter of Charles II. and disavowed that of James, as having been founded on a pretended surrender of privileges, which was never recorded. The charter of Charles II. gave them the full command of the corporation, without subjecting them to removal at the will of the crown. But great changes had now taken place in public opinions; and applications were made to the king for a charter, which might restore to the burgeses their ancient rights. The common council were apprised of these attempts, and endeavoured to counteract them, as appears by an order of the 29th of March, 1695, in which they take notice *that endeavours are used to take away or make void the charter of Charles II. under which the corporation derives many great privileges and immunities*, and direct *that the mayor and bailiff shall, at the charge of the corporation, use their utmost endeavours to preserve the same*; but these endeavours were ineffectual, for on the 26th of September, in the same year, king William III. granted the now subsisting charter of the place.

The contests that have arisen as to the construction of this charter, and which have lately been the subject of an extensive litigation in the court of King's Bench, renders the consideration of it in some degree interesting.

After *inspecting* or stating in the same words the charter of Charles I. and confirming the same, it proceeds to notice, *that a few of the burgessees of the town, by a combination among themselves, without the assent of the greater part of the burgessees, and without a surrender of the charter of Charles I. or any judgment of quo warranto, had procured the charter of Charles II. in which sundry material changes were designed to be made in the government of the town, which had caused many differences and doubts concerning the liberties, franchises, and customs, of the town, and also concerning the election and appointment of the mayor, and DIVERS OTHER OFFICERS of the same town.*

The charter then appoints a common council of forty-one burgessees, one of whom shall be mayor, and two bailiffs. And by a subsequent clause, it directs that upon the removal or death of any of the mayor, recorder, town-clerk, bailiffs, or common council, another fit person shall be elected *by such persons, and in such manner, time, and form, as in that particular was used and accustomed before the making the charter of Charles II.*

It is observable, that this clause which relates to the election of the officers, is in the same words as the clause respecting election in the charter of James II. except that in that of James the election is directed to be *as theretofore accustomed*, and in that of William it is directed to be made in the same manner *as before the charter of Charles II.* at which time the common council *did not exist by charter, but by delegation from the burgessees.* The charter of William III. further directs that the mayor shall be chosen *by the burgessees out of the common council.*



Under this charter it might have been expected, that the burgesſes would again have entered upon the exerciſe of their rights, but the new common council were ſoon aware of the power they poſſeſſed. By the charter of Charles I. now again recogniſed, as part of the conſtitution of the place, no common hall, or aſſembly of the burgesſes could be held without the aſſent and preſence of the mayor, and one at leaſt of the bailiffs. By that of William III. the mayor and bailiffs muſt be choſen from the common council. The council then exiſting, without advertiſing to the diſtinction between the charters of James II. and of William III. reſpectiſg the choice of their members, ſtill continued to elect each other; and all that was neceſſary, therefore, on their parts for ſecuring to themſelves the whole government of the town, was to elect *only* ſuch perſons into the council as they were ſatiſfied *would not call together the burgesſes* for the purpoſes of making bye laws, or be preſent at ſuch meeting; and with ſuch precaution have they conducted themſelves, that a full century has now elapſed without the burgesſes at large having been able to avail themſelves of the privileges intended to be granted to them.

This total extinction of their ancient rights has not, however, been ſubmitted to without various ſtruggles. In the year 1735, James, earl of Derby, then mayor of the town, with the concurrence of the bailiffs, called together the burgesſes in common hall. The aſſembly was accordingly held, and fundry bye laws made. But the earl dying in the following year, the common council again aſſumed the whole authority, and diſmiſſed the two bailiffs from their office of common council-men; declaring in expreſs terms, that in holding the ſaid common hall, they had acted manifeſtly in breach of the truſt repoſed in them as common council-men of the borough.

There is, however, reason to presume, that notwithstanding the authority exercised by the common council in making bye laws for the government of the town, they could not divest themselves of some doubts as to their power so to do, under the subsisting charter. In order, therefore, to prevent all further opposition, they applied, in the year 1751, to George II. to grant them a new charter, stating in their petition the former charters, and particularly that of William III. which, as they (with some inaccuracy) observe, *ordained that for the future to preserve the peace, tranquillity, and good government, of the town, there shall or may be for ever forty-one good and discreet burgeses, who shall be called the common council, &c. omitting* (as they say) *to give them the least power, in express terms, though it was the manifest if not the sole intent of this charter, to give forty-one the power in the first recited clause of king Charles's charter (the power of making bye laws) in order to prevent the populous meetings of the burgeses upon every trifling occasion, as the town was so extremely increased since that time.* They then suggest to the king that it may *thereafter cause disputes, unless the said charter was explained for this purpose, by adding the clause of king Charles's charter, or in such manner as his majesty should think fit.* In plain language, they requested the king would give to the select body of the common council the same power of making bye laws which the body at large possessed under the charter of Charles I. and they conclude with petitioning that the mayor may act as a justice of the peace for four years, and that the recorder may have power to appoint a deputy.

This petition was referred to the then attorney and solicitor general, Sir Dudley Rider, and Mr. (afterwards lord) Mansfield, who recommended to withdraw the whole of their petition, except such as related

related to the appointment of justices of the peace, and the nomination of a deputy recorder; to which they prudently assented, and on the report of the attorney and solicitor general a new charter was then obtained which granted their request, and confirmed all former privileges; but which left the common council, as to their legislative authority, in the same situation in which they stood under the charter of William III.

This disappointment made no alteration in the conduct of the common council, who continued to nominate their own members as occasion required, and to make regulations or bye laws for the government of the town; but it is observable, that in case of resistance, these bye laws were never enforced by legal proceedings. In fact, few of these bye laws have at present any active existence, the town being governed, and the police regulated, chiefly under the authority of various acts of parliament which have been obtained for that purpose; but the receipts and expenditure of the large income of the corporation rested entirely with the common council, who never audited or published their accompts, or communicated to the burgeses at large any information as to the real state of their concerns. In order to remedy these supposed abuses; a majority of the resident burgeses in the year 1791 presented a petition to John Sparling, Esq. the mayor; Robert Moss, and Clayton Tarleton, Esqrs. the bailiffs; requesting them to call together a general assembly of the burgeses in common hall. These officers complied with the requisition, and such meeting was accordingly held, and very numerously attended, when measures were taken for bringing to a trial at law, the important questions which had so long been the subject of debate among the burgeses, viz. in what part of the corpora-

corporation the *making of bye laws and electing the common council* refused.

The cause respecting the bye laws came on to be tried at the assizes at Lancaster in the same year, before Mr. Baron Thompson; Mr. Erskine being the leading counsel for the select body, and Mr. Serjeant Adair for the burgesses; when the jury being of opinion that the power of making bye laws was, under the charter of Charles I. recognized by that of William III. expressly given to the corporation at large, and the judge having directed them, that no evidence of a custom ought to be admitted against the express words of a charter, a verdict was given for the burgesses.

A motion was afterwards made in the court of King's Bench for a new trial, when, after a long argument, the judges of that court were of opinion that the evidence of the custom ought to have been admitted, and directed a new trial accordingly. The cause was again tried in the following year, when the records of the town were produced and given in evidence; but the second jury were also of opinion that no practice could be legal that was in direct opposition to the clause in the charter of Charles I. which gave the power of making bye laws *to the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses, on public notice for that purpose*, and gave a verdict against the claims of the common council.

A third trial was then moved for, which the court of King's Bench, on what grounds does not appear, thought proper to grant. But the expences incurred in these proceedings, which were disbursed by individual burgesses, added to the consideration that the law has prescribed no limits to the authority of a court, in remanding a cause for trial,

whenever it is not satisfied with the verdict, deterred the burgesſes from the further proſecution of their claim ; and the common council, notwithstanding the opinion of the two juries, ſtill continue to exerciſe the excluſive power of the corporation in the ſame manner as before theſe proceedings were commenced.

The queſtion reſpecting the right of electing the members of the common council was alſo tried, the burgesſes contending, that as the charter of William III. referred to the cuſtom before that of Charles II. at which time the common council exiſted *not by charter*, but *by the appointment of the burgesſes*, they had a right to elect ; and the common council on the contrary contending, that the charter of William meant to refer to *the actual practice* before the charter of Charles II. On this point the jury were of opinion that the cuſtom was deciſive, and gave a verdict accordingly. The event of this conteſt, and of the celebrated Cheſter cauſe, in which a ſolemn deciſion of the Houſe of Lords was obtained by the exertions, and at the expence, of an individual, without producing the leaſt change in the practice of the corporation, will be a uſeful caution to ſuch as may be hereafter inclined to engage in ſimilar undertakings.

## II.—*Project of its Participation in the Eaſt India Trade.*

THE active and enterprizing ſpirit which has uniformly diſtinguiſhed the merchants of Liverpool, had led them at different times to turn their attention towards the trade between Great Britain and the Eaſt Indies, and it had been repeatedly ſuggeſted, that there appeared no obvious reaſons why the benefits ariſing from the being immediately concerned

concerned in the carrying on this extensive and growing branch of commerce, should be confined wholly to a monopoly by the merchants of London under an exclusive charter.

On a former occasion there had been an application from the merchants of Liverpool to the East India Company, for a certain number of their ships to be fitted out and laden annually from the port of Liverpool; but though this proposition was listened to with some attention, yet it failed of being carried into effect.

In the year 1792, the growing wealth and prosperity of Liverpool had led its merchants to believe that they were possessed of sufficient capital, and that they were in other respects competent to the carrying on of a trade to the East Indies with advantage. They were the more impressed with this idea, as the merchants of the United States of America had for some years been engaged in the same traffic, and were acquiring large fortunes in it. The approaching expiration of the East India Company's charter, and the possibility of a partial or total abolition of the African Slave Trade, induced the merchants of Liverpool to hope that this would be a season peculiarly favourable for their application.

A public meeting of the merchants and inhabitants was accordingly held within the Exchange, and the following resolutions were unanimously voted:

**“ RESOLVED,**

**“ I. THAT** the Creator of the Universe, by endowing different portions of the earth with different products, has laid the foundation of  
com-

commerce ; which, having for its object the supply of mutual wants, and the exchange of mutual comforts, may be safely left to the regulations which mutual interest points out, and should, as far as possible, be free from every restraint.

“ II. That monopolies are destructive of these principles, because they provide for the interest of the monopolist only, and enable him to fix at his own pleasure, both the rate at which he buys from one country and sells to another, and the charge at which he carries the commodities of each.

“ III. That the history of the East India Company affords most striking proofs of the consequence of trusting such powers to the discretion of individuals ; and the injuries which their monopoly of the trade between Britain and India has produced to both countries, are of the most serious nature.

“ IV. That the principles to which many of these are to be traced, is the temptation which the possession of this monopoly has offered to the East India Company, to exchange the character of merchants for those of warriors and politicians, by which they have assumed the sovereignty of twenty millions of men with whom traffic was their first, and ought to have been their only object.

“ V. That to support a dominion by force, which could no otherwise be supported, they have been led to maintain vast and expensive civil and military establishments, the whole charge of which must be defrayed by the people of India or Great Britain, and seems a heavy,

and cruel, as well as useless burthen, on the connection between the two countries.

“ VI. That peace is the natural, and ought to be the inseparable attendant of commerce ;---that the possession of continental territories is valuable only as it is productive of commercial intercourse ; and that it is probable the opening of the East India trade will render less frequent those desolating wars which have so often deluged the soil of that unhappy country with the blood of its inhabitants, whilst they have been equally fatal to this country by the sacrifice of thousands of British subjects and the expenditure of millions of British treasure.

“ VII. That the East India monopoly prevents the free export of our manufactures to one of the largest and richest regions of the world, where there is reason to believe they might, in the course of open trade, be increased in their vent twenty fold and upwards ;---that under the present system the exports are conducted without a proper attention to the change of circumstances and seasons ; and due means are not employed for opening new sources of traffic on the eastern coast of Africa, the island of Madagascar, the countries that lie up the streights of Babelmandel, and on the shores of the Persian Gulph, with many of the vast profusion of islands that are scattered throughout the Indian Ocean, all within the limits of the Company’s monopoly, and yielding them little or no advantage, but which the unfettered enterprise and skill of individuals might soon explore, and render of the utmost importance.

“ VIII. That this monopoly choaks many of the infant manufactures of Britain as they arise, from the power it gives of lowering at pleasure the rival manufactures of India in the home market ; the loss



sustained being laid on such articles as are the produce of the soil of India, which habit has rendered necessary amongst us, and which are not to be obtained elsewhere; a power that more than once has destroyed the manufacture of British porcelain, and that was employed to oppose and bear down the manufacture of cotton, now risen to such national importance.

“ IX. That the injuries to commerce and navigation have been proportional, as may be clearly inferred. The practice indeed of employing large vessels on overcharged freights is an open sacrifice of the interest of the Company itself to the selfish views of individuals, and is an undeniable proof of the entire departure from the principles of fair traffic into which this monopoly has diverged:---that all the branches of those most important manufactures employed in the building and equipment of shipping, are injured under the present system, which also obstructs the training of mariners, on which our national safety and prosperity so particularly depend.

“ X. That the progress of time and experience has now effectually removed the grounds on which the exclusive trade to India was originally supported, viz. the danger and expence of so distant a traffic. The free trade and manufactures of Great Britain have produced such an influx of wealth, and accumulation of capital, that there is no adventure too heavy for private merchants, or private companies of merchants, to undertake; the genius, industry, and talents of our people are such, that there is no part of the world to which they cannot make a free trade profitable, and that nearly in proportion to its riches and population; and such are the skill and enterprize of our navigators,

that there is no shore so dangerous, no region so remote, as to daunt their spirit, or prevent their approach.

“ XI. That these facts are capable of collateral proof, from the success with which the merchants of Portugal carried on a trade to India without any exclusive charter, for a century and upwards; and still more from the success of the merchants of North America, who now traverse every part of the Indian and Pacific Oceans with vessels of no larger a size than those usually employed on the Atlantic, and who with capitals comparatively insignificant, are opening most advantageous channels of traffic, from which the British merchant, with prior claims, superior skill, and irresistible capital, is by a false policy excluded.

“ XII. That as it is the nature of trade to force its way through less direct channels, when its natural course is obstructed, the products of Great Britain now begin to be sent to the East Indies in American bottoms, and those of China and the East Indies to be smuggled into Britain and her colonies, through America and Ostend, to the injury of the British trader and manufacturer, as well as of the British consumer, all of whose interests are thus palpably sacrificed.

“ XIII. That these facts while they point out the impolicy of the present system of East India monopoly, demonstrate also the impossibility of its being continued without measures of rigor that the occasion will not justify, and more and more violence against the true principles of commerce now so well understood, and operating with such great and rapid influence on the national prosperity.

“ XIV.

“ XIV. That clear as we are in all these views, we are yet aware that difficulties may attend the overthrow of a false system that has continued so long, and connected itself so widely ; and we should condemn all attempts for this purpose that would sacrifice the interest of those immediately concerned, in expiation of the mistaken policy of the nation ; but we wish the public at large to see the evil of this monopoly in its full extent, and the collected wisdom of the legislature to be employed in removing it by methods consistent with true policy and the principles of justice.

“ XV. That a petition be therefore presented to parliament, praying that the whole of this important subject may be taken into consideration, and that we may be permitted to be heard by counsel, and, if need be, to adduce evidence in support of our allegations against the renewal of an exclusive charter, by which our interests in common with the commercial, manufacturing, and by consequence, landed interests of the kingdom are so manifestly injured.

“ XVI. That a committee be now appointed to prepare such petition for the consideration of a public meeting, to be hereafter called.

“ XVII. That the said committee be requested to correspond with such other towns and places, as they may think proper, in order to obtain their co-operation with us on this important business.

“ XVIII. That these resolutions be published in such of the London, and country newspapers, as the said committee may direct.

“ XIX.

“ XIX. That the following gentlemen be appointed a committee, and that any three of them assembled, on due notice, be competent to act, viz.

The worshipful the Mayor,

Nicholas Ashton, Esq.	William Earle, Merchant,
John Dawson, Esq.	Edward Rogers, do.
William Smyth, Merchant.	William Rathbone, do.
Jonas Bold, Banker.	Francis Trench, do.
Thomas Earle, Esq.	Thomas Hodgson, do.
Willis Earle, Merchant.	Thomas Hodgson, jun. do.

“ XX. That a subscription be now opened for defraying the expenses that may be incurred in the prosecution of this business, and that Messrs. Charles Caldwell and Co. bankers in Liverpool, be appointed treasurers.

“ XXI. That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Mayor for the attention which he has shewn to this important business.

“ CLAYTON TARLETON, Chairman.”

The preceding resolutions, with circular letters from the chairman of the committee, were addressed to every member of the House of Commons, and to the magistrate or some other person in almost every large or trading town in England and Scotland; and they were likewise advertised in most of the London and country newspapers. The subject excited a considerable degree of attention; and a correspondence was entered into by

by the committee appointed in the preceding resolutions, and committees or other persons in different trading towns, to the interests of which the monopoly of the East India trade, under an exclusive charter, was thought injurious. In this number were Manchester, Birmingham, Exeter, Norwich, Glasgow, Paisley, &c.

In a very short time afterwards, however, our situation with respect to France became more and more interesting. An uncommon agitation prevailed throughout the kingdom, in consequence of the apprehension of disaffection at home, and the prospect of an immediate war. It was feared by many, that any opposition to the intentions of administration with respect to the renewal of the East India Company's charter, might be considered as tending to weaken the hands of government, at a time when it was thought particularly desirable to strengthen them. Very soon afterwards the commercial part of the kingdom received a severe and most unexampled shock, in the numerous bankruptcies which took place in every part of the kingdom, and of which Liverpool had its share. And from this complication of causes, the minds of the merchants were fully occupied with the individual distress, either of themselves or their friends; and no further public exertions were made for the attainment of an object, in which the interests both of Britain and the East Indies appeared to be deeply concerned.

## MACCLESFIELD.

*Bill of Mortality.*

From March 25, 1712, to ditto 1730,— annual average	}	Christ. 148	Bur. 161
From ditto 1730, to ditto 1740,—annual average	}	176	133
From ditto 1740, to ditto 1750,—annual average	}	175	153
From ditto 1750, to ditto 1760,—annual average	}	203	150
From ditto 1760, to ditto 1770,—annual average	}	244	166
From ditto 1770, to ditto 1780,—annual average	}	267	171
		1781	292
		1782	303
		1783	300
		1784	288
		1785	324
		1786	286
		1787	313
		1788	315
		1789	299
		1790	316
		1791	373
		1792	413
		1793	418
		1794	336
			309
			213
			193
			239
			246
			231
			247
			256
			260
			380
			252
			346
			306
			263

N: B. Dissenters included.

*School*

*School.* The annual value of all its estates at the first endowment was £.21 5s. The present income is £.300 and upwards; and on the falling in of leases for lives it will be near £.700. The head master is allowed a salary of £.100 per annum, and the second master of £.60. A new writing school has lately been established by the governors, for the accommodation of the town and neighbourhood, the master of which has a salary of £.25 per annum.

*Trade.* The manufactures of Macclesfield are mohair buttons; worsted twist, and silk and hair twist, made by twisters alone; also silk handkerchiefs and hat-bands, and waste silk spun for the making of stockings; likewise ribbons, ferrets, and galloons, and silk tape for the covering of buttons. There is likewise a considerable manufactory of fustians, calicoes, checks, and linen cloth in the town and neighbourhood; and there are several capital dyers and hat-makers in the town. There are thirty mills for the throwing of silk for weavers, and making of sewing silk, most of which are turned by water; also twelve mills for the spinning of cotton, ten of which go by water.

# STOCKPORT.

## Bill of Mortality.

Years.	Marr.	Bapt.	Bur.	Years.	Marr.	Bapt.	Bur.
1750	47	107	206	1785	249	240	350
1755	50	119	163	1786	191	273	271
1760	73	106	163	1787	190	246	496
1765	82	111	166	1788	201	258	374
1770	93	110	209	1789	215	267	339
1775	108	138	193	1790	224	316	369
1780	108	173	250	1791	276	375	517
1781	146	161	324	1792	278	463	715
1782	157	175	193	1793	232	423	492
1783	159	185	224	1794	157	415	600
1784	207	215	410				

*Explanation of the Plate of Melandra Castle.*

On the sides A. and B. were ditches.

C. Road from the Roman station at Brough in Derbyshire, entered at this gate.

From E. it is supposed a road went to Buxton.

Not known whether any thing of this sort led from F. into Yorkshire.

At G. very near the east angle, the present tenant under the duke of Norfolk found, several years ago, a stone about sixteen inches long, and twelve inches broad, on which is the inscription already given.

## E R R A T A.

Page 378, line 19, for 9055, *read* 7055.

Page 393, line 8, — £.300, *read* £.3000.

Page 521, for Mr. Champion returning to England, *read* died in America, leaving a debt unpaid in England of nearly £.100,000.

*Correct the List of Patrons of Livings in Cheshire as follows :*

St. Mary, Chester,	—	Mr. Hill.
Pulford,	— —	Representative of Mr. Townsend, rector of Chester.
Tarporley,	— —	Also dean and chapter of Chester, and Mr. Egerton of Oulton.
Alderley,	— —	Sir J. Stanley.
Prestbury,	— —	Mrs. Legh.
Brereton,	— —	Mr. Bracebridge.
Davenham,	— —	E. Tomkinson, Esq.
Hefwall,	— —	And — Mainwaring, Esq.



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